

HOME NEWS

Government cash for cities 'threatens vital rural services'

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Vital local services outside the big cities will be seriously jeopardized if the Government continues to take money away from non-metropolitan areas in favour of London and the big conurbations, the Association of County Councils said yesterday.

The expression of its fears comes immediately before Monday's meeting of the joint consultative council at which government departments and local authority associations are to discuss distribution of the rate-support grant.

The association accepts that it is government policy to help areas of urban deprivation but believes that such help should be separate from the rate-support grant system and directed towards specific urban difficulties, which exist also in parts of county areas.

Monday's meeting, chaired by Mr. Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, will discuss a joint report prepared by central and local government officials on the rate-support grant distribution for 1978-79. The association has become increasingly concerned in the past two years at the change of resources and in projects against the trend some of its members have threatened to withdraw from the grant negotiations.

Mrs. Elizabeth Coker, chairman, said yesterday: "We shall tell Mr. Shore that our ability to maintain our vital services in county areas will be very seriously jeopardized if he persists in the policy followed by the Labour Government in successive years from 1974-75 of taking

the needs grant away from them and giving it to London, who have been the main beneficiaries, and the metropolitan areas."

The needs grant, a head was more than three-fifths greater in London and more than a third greater in the metropolitan areas than for the non-metropolitan county areas.

The association says the change has been in the opposite direction to the movement in population. With 62.2 per cent of the population, the non-metropolitan county areas were receiving only 53.4 per cent of the needs grant in 1977-78.

The association complains that the present method of distributing the grant is wrongly founded on an assumption that existing spending patterns are the best general representation of needs. It favours a simpler approach, identifying political judgments and decisions for all to see.

Councils that had suffered grant losses were exposed to the self-perpetuating effects of the present system, which would hinder them from providing satisfactory services.

By contrast, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which represents the large conurbations, considers that the change of resources is long overdue and must continue.

The two associations are on a potential collision course, which Mr. Shore will do his best to prevent. It is ironic that the controversy which is deepening while Mr. Shore is becoming increasingly convinced of the value of the consultative council in bridging the gap in understanding between central and local government.

Post chiefs' strike will hit services

By Tim Jones
Labour Reporter

Action by senior Post Office staff will disrupt services next month. The Society of Post Office Executives has decided to stage its first strike after failing to secure a productivity agreement with the employers.

The union intends to begin a policy of non-cooperation on August 2 and that will include a half-day strike. About 17,000 of the union's 22,000 members will be involved.

According to the union, which represents some of the highest management grades, its attempts over the past two years to negotiate an agreement have been rejected by the Post Office.

Many members supervise engineers and their action will slow traffic and delay mail. Other unions in the Post Office have productivity agreements.

The privilege was withdrawn after the murders, but in an interim report by Sheriff Principal Robert Reid, who conducted a public inquiry into the escape, its reintroduction is recommended.

Mr. Reid also recommends the resumed use of the hospital's education facilities and suggests that patients in parole wards should again be allowed to watch evening television.

The hospital management committee has discussed the recommendations and meetings between the committee and staff representatives will take place to consider their implementation.

Channel crossed by hang glider

The first crossing of the Channel by hang glider was made yesterday by Mr. Kenneth Messenger, aged 37, from Marlborough. His hour-long flight began with a lift off in a hot air balloon from Canterbury and ended at Sangatte, near Calais.

His partner, Mr. Brian Milton, aged 34, a BBC journalist, came down in the sea near a Soviet cargo ship which took him to Boulogne. His launch above Dover had been at only 15,000 feet, compared with Mr. Messenger's at 20,000 feet.

Tour operator stops cruises

Thomson Holidays, the inclusive-tour operator, is ceasing to run cruising holidays from the autumn. The company said last night that declining bookings made it no longer economical for it to stay in that sector of the market.

As a result, it will take no reservations after the present series of cruises ends in November.

Dig at Roman site

Archaeologists are to excavate a recently discovered Roman town near Chirk, Clwyd, next month under the direction of Professor Barri Jones, of Manchester University.

'Lost' atom waste enough for 15 bombs

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

The Atomic Energy Authority and British Nuclear Fuels are unable to account for more than 100kg of plutonium apparently missing from their inventories over the past six years.

At face value, that represents enough material to make 15 nuclear weapons, but Dr. Donald Avery, deputy managing director of British Nuclear Fuels, said yesterday that he was confident that none of the material had been stolen.

His assurance came during a press conference at which, for the first time, information was given about a procedure in the handling of nuclear fuel known as MUF, or materials unaccounted for. The details covered plutonium, highly enriched uranium, of which another 100kg is unaccounted for, and natural uranium and depleted uranium. The figures covered only the civil stocks of nuclear material since 1970.

As Dr. Avery indicated, most public concern centres on plutonium because of the possibility that it could be stolen or diverted for weapons.

Keeping track of plutonium is difficult because it cannot be handled directly. The type of alpha radiation it emits is absorbed by material with the thickness of tissue paper and is not easily measured.

Dr. Avery explained how the trouble in keeping an accurate inventory starts from the moment uranium rods are placed into a reactor, where in the process of nuclear fission a proportion of fuel is converted into plutonium. The first check in the MUF procedure is at a reprocessing plant starts with an estimate of the amount in fuel rods.

The material is so highly radioactive, however, that any diversion for illicit purposes would be practically impossible.

The argument is that in no industrial process does all the material entering a processing plant leave as finished product. Some inevitably has to be stored as scrap or waste, some is held up during processing or in residues awaiting further treatment and some is allowed to pass into the environment.

There are many reasons for the uncertainties over plutonium. Small quantities of the material are contained in large volumes of other waste materials.

It is also hazardous to make detailed inspection and measurement of plutonium; almost impossible at some stages. Thus there are discrepancies in amounts of plutonium going to waste storage, being discharged and left in residues; but British Nuclear Fuels insists that these quantities are well within safety margins, even if they create an inventory imbalance.

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Court 'surprise' over the ballot at Grunwick

By Robert Parker

Lord Justice Scarman, heading the court of inquiry into the Grunwick dispute, expressed surprise yesterday at the decision by the company to conduct a ballot of the opinions of its workers on Wednesday.

The ballot showed that most people in the factory did not want to join a union or the reinstatement of workers who were dismissed for walking out last year.

Lord Justice Scarman said: "The court was a little surprised that the survey was undertaken, bearing in mind the anxiety to keep the situation as calm as possible, and of course, a survey taken in the midst of this inquiry might be calculated to anger the trade union who in a sense you [the company] are in dispute with."

Mr. Stuart McKinnon, for Grunwick, replied that the poll was certainly not calculated to anger "right-thinking people."

Mr. Frank Collins, a member of the Gallup Poll team who carried out the survey, was asked by Mr. James Ritchie, for Brent Trades Council, whether the fact that seven van drivers who had joined the Transport

and General Workers' Union and then walked out had been dismissed on the day of the poll might have had any effect on the way people voted.

Mr. Collins said that on supposition, it might just as the "household situation" and the anti-union propaganda might also have done.

Lord Justice Scarman passed several comments about the company, which the court visited for four hours on Wednesday. He said the leadership was impressive, as was the loyalty of the remaining workers, and that the physical conditions of the factories were excellent.

Of the company's leadership, he said: "We were impressed with the fact that the leadership is from the front. You [the managers] were all there among working people. This is very impressive."

"We saw the premises they were in excellent condition. The court was very impressed by the fact that a substantial number of them [the staff] in very trying circumstances, have struck by the company most loyally."

Lord Justice Scarman said he expected the taking of evidence to finish next Thursday. Callaghan criticism: The Prime

Minister was criticized by Mr. Mervyn Reale, QC, in the Court of Appeal yesterday for a remark he made about the Grunwick case (a Staff Reporter writes).

Mr. Reale was opening Grunwick's appeal against the decision of Lord Widgery, Lord Chief Justice, last week upholding a recommendation by the Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) that the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex) should be recognized by the firm.

Mr. Reale referred to Mr. Callaghan's statement in the House of Commons last Wednesday that Mr. George Ward, Grunwick's managing director, ought carefully to consider the consequences of his appeal.

Mr. Reale said it sounded like a threat that if he was successful in his appeal, he would come to regret it. He added: "That statement ought never to have been made."

Mr. Reale submitted to Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Browne and Lord Justice Geoffrey Lane that Lord Widgery had misinterpreted the Employment Protection Act, 1975, the law that set up Acas. He said: "Because it is an Act seeking to improve

industrial relations, it should not be interpreted in favour of trade unions."

The Act lays down that in the event of a dispute within a company over union recognition, Acas "shall ascertain the opinion of workers to whom the issue relates", either by formal ballot or by other means.

Mr. Reale submitted that in carrying out a ballot on December 29 only among those workers who had been dismissed by Mr. Ward Acas was not performing its statutory duty.

Under the terms of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974, the term "worker" is defined as meaning someone under contract of employment, he said. Those dismissed by Mr. Ward, who were balloted by Acas as to whether they wished a trade union to negotiate with the company on their behalf, clearly did not fall into that category.

Mr. Reale maintained that Acas had determined to take a formal ballot of Grunwick employees, according to the procedure laid down in the Employment Protection Act, and had then failed to comply with its requirements.

The hearing continues today.

Companies 'near closure' through mail suspension

By Peter Godfrey

More than a hundred businesses and women protested angrily to the Post Office yesterday over the suspension of postal deliveries in the London, SW2 area in the wake of the Grunwick dispute.

The protesters formed an action group under the chairmanship of Mr. Barry Raymond, a Crickwood industrial broker, who told meeting at Neasden yesterday that he had secured an interview for next Wednesday with Sir William Ryland, chairman of the Post Office.

However, the meeting considered the restoration of postal services to be more urgent and it was adjourned while Post

Office representatives tried to advance the appointment. They failed.

Mr. Raymond suggested a seven-day "amnesty" on local companies' mail which was accumulated at the Crickwood sorting office since postal workers there were suspended for refusing to handle Grunwick mail.

There would be casualties among smaller companies, he added. He emphasized that the business community's campaign was neither political nor a Grunwick badge, but a view apparently shared by two MPs.

Mr. Hugh Dykes, Conservative MP for Harrow, East, and Mr. John Goss, Conservative MP for Barnet, Hendon, North.

Mr. Goss suggested that the Post Office should allow Grun-

wick to collect the 65 bags of its mail held at the Crickwood sorting office.

Mr. Norris McWhirter, of the National Association of Free-dom, outlined a plan for legal action to free the mail of local commercial interests: "You should request and require the Attorney General to act ex officio in pronouncing the action of the Post Office workers contrary to criminal law."

The association had been advised that such action could release the mail within 48 hours.

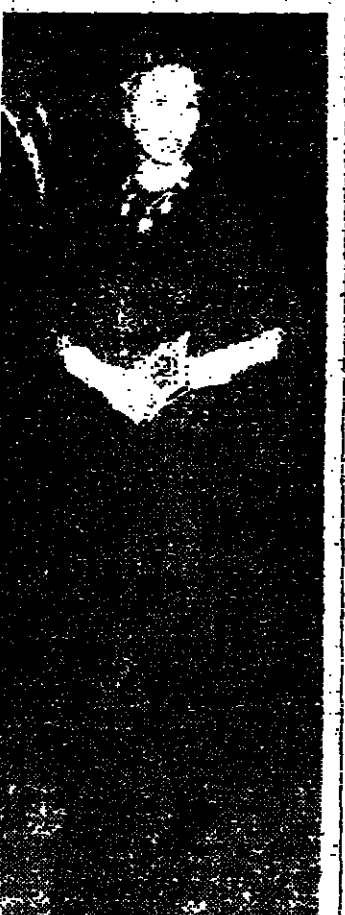
The chairman, reluctant to adopt the plan, closed the meeting amid considerable acrimony. The group was contemplating legal action last night but appeared hesitant to align itself with the association.

Earlier, a publisher of export documents said 50 per cent of his business was by mail. "We are virtually at a standstill."

A mail order bookmaker said: "Our business is at breaking point, and the only thing we can do is to close." The manager of an industrial equipment company said the company's cash flow had been reduced from £20,000 to £2,000 in two weeks.

Mr. Peter Milne, controller of the London postal region, was told that the Post Office action over Grunwick was "discriminating against the rest of the people in Crickwood."

The Post Office is to meet suspended Crickwood workers today. The sorters said yesterday that they would be willing to return to work but not to handle Grunwick mail.



Princess Anne arriving at Earls Court last night for the Royal Tournament.

MPs may seek 6-month suspension for Mr Cordle

Continued from page 1

amendment to expel Mr. Cordle.

Many front-benchers and back-benchers shrink from that prospect, partly because the penalty would be exacted by the Commons from one of its members in accordance with what is widely regarded as an archaic and barbarous ritual, in which the Speaker, seated, dons his black cap like a hanging judge.

Late last night it appeared that senior backbenchers, including some on the Labour side, intend to table a motion to suspend Mr. Cordle for six months.

That is apparently widely regarded as a middle-of-the-road solution to the embarrassment of both sides of the House of Commons.

Our Political Correspondent writes: Mr. Parker said last night that he would move an amendment to Mr. Foot's motion for the expulsion of Mr. Cordle for "serious contempt of the House."

That adopts the phraseology he used in his motion tabled earlier this week. Other motions tabled by Mr. Parker, asking that Mr. Maundling and Mr. Roberts should be censured for "con-

duct inconsistent with the standards the House is entitled to expect of its members", have been withdrawn.

He said he did not think it necessary to take further action on those motions in view of Mr. Foot's move. "The cases of Mr. Maundling and Mr. Roberts are covered, in my view, by the wording of the report," he said.

It would only be duplicating the findings of the select committee to table further amendments to the government motion.

Mr. Michael Stewart, chairman of the select committee, had let it be known that if Mr. Cordle was expelled, he would move that the House should "take note" of the committee's report there would have been an amendment to approve it.

At last night's meeting of the Conservative backbenchers' 1922 Committee, Sir Peter Rawlinson, QC, former Attorney General, was critical of the select committee's procedure. It is affected the ability of the MPs to defend themselves against the accusations made.

It is clear that some Conservatives are worried about the House of Commons assuming its role as a court of trial on the basis of the committee's report and they are pointing out that it is almost thirty years since an MP was expelled.

Judge gives no reason for retrial

A judge at the Central Criminal Court stopped a trial yesterday without giving any reason. Three men had denied offences concerning stolen South African travellers' cheques worth £160,000.

Judge Edward Clarke, QC, said the men, Michael Wylie, aged 24, and David Barlow, aged 38, both gold dealers of Belgrave, and Brian Westhead, aged 35, labourer, of Wembley, would be retried on September 5.

Earlier the judge told the jury: "As I indicated to you yesterday, for reasons which do not really concern you, I have decided to discharge you from giving a verdict in respect of these three defendants, and this case will be retried."

The judge's decision was made after the first defendant, Mr. Wylie, a former Army officer, had given evidence and had been cross-examined.

He said his fingerprints must have got on to some of the stolen cheques when another man had visited his flat in Belgrave on or after July 25, 1976, worth of krugerrands.

Retribution if royal is disgraced

From Stewart T. Belfast

The Ulster Defence Regiment, largest of paramilitary organisations, promises full retribution if the visit to Northern Ireland is disrupted.

A representative of the regiment, which is part of the re-strike, said that it has a list of 207 names of those who have disrupted the visit on August 1.

The representative said that the regiment will take a guarantee of behaviour of those who move during the visit on August 1.

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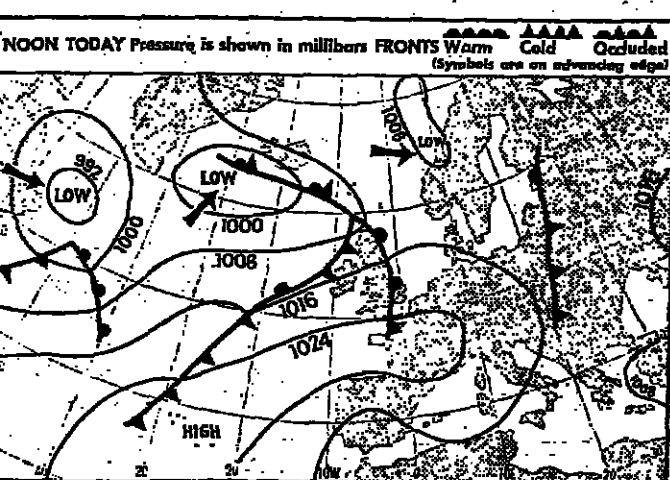
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Weather forecast and recordings



Today
Sun rises: 5.10 am. Sun sets: 9.44 pm.
Moon rises: 12.13 pm. Moon sets: 11.29 pm.
First quarter: Tomorrow.
Lighting up: 9.34 pm to 4.41 am.
High water: London Bridge, 6.19 am, 7.00 am (23.1ft); 6.27 pm, 6.59 pm (22.7ft).
Low water: London Bridge, 12.14 am, 12.11 pm (39.8ft); 12.38 pm, 12.00 am (39.4ft).
Dover, 6.38 am, 6.11 pm (20.1ft); 3.47 pm, 6.30 am (20.8ft).
Hull, 10.34 am, 7.00 am (22.8ft); 11.13 pm, 6.50 am (21.2ft).
Liverpool, 6.43 am, 6.00 am (29.0ft); 4.4 pm, 8.50 am (27.8ft).

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Forecast for 6 am to midnight:
London, SE, central S, E, NW, Central N, England, East Anglia, Midlands: Cloudy, a little rain in places, sunny intervals developing; wind SW, moderate or light; max temp 24°C (75°F).
SW England, Wales, Channel Islands: Rather cloudy, drizzle in places, sunny intervals developing; wind SW, moderate; max temp 20°C (68°F).
NE England, Lake District, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland: Cloudy, rain becoming brighter; wind SW light, becoming moderate; max temp 15°C (59°F).
Central Highlands, NW Scotland, Moray Firth, Argyll: Cloudy, rain becoming brighter; wind SW light, becoming moderate; max temp 15°C (59°F).
Orkney, Shetland: Cloudy, rain; wind SW moderate, fresh later; max temp 15°C (59°F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Changeable, sunny intervals and showers, but longer periods of rain. A little warmer in places, sunny intervals developing; wind near normal, elsewhere SW moderate; sea slight.

Strait of Dover, English Channel (E), St. George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind SW moderate, locally fresh; sea slight or moderate.

At the resorts

hours to 6 pm,			
	Sun	Rain	
	hrs	in "	
COAST			
Barbrough	3.5	—	
Edlington	2.6	—	
Wreston	3.5	—	
Acton	3.5	—	
Ugarte	1.6	.02	
Bay	0.4	.05	
COAST			
Stings	3.5	—	
Stbourne	2.1	—	
ghton	2.6	.03	
ner R	2.4	—	
Wessa	5.0	—	
down	8.0	—	
Wm'th	9.5	—	
mouth	10.1	—	
	3.7	—	

HOME NEWS

Doctors will vote on attempt to restore their status

By John Roper
Health Services Correspondent
Glasgow

The 600 delegates at the policy-making annual representative meeting of the British Medical Association in Glasgow will today vote on a motion asking their independent review body for a "statement of intent and recommendations which would rectify anomalies and lead to a restoration of the profession's proper economic status".

A second composite motion will ask the meeting because the Government's income policy continues to discriminate unfairly against doctors, to instruct the association's council to prepare for appropriate action.

That would begin, the motion says, with a one-day national withdrawal of non-urgent services to safeguard the interests of the medical profession and the National Health Service.

The motions, in the names of Mr. Andrew Graham, chairman of the council, and Dr. R. A. Keable, chairman of the general practitioners' committee, unite the opinions expressed earlier this week at the medical craft conference.

A third motion repeats support for a "strong and truly independent review body" whose reports should be published by the Government without delay.

The recent review body report, which declared that medical and dental professions had received manifestly unjust treatment under the income policy, was delayed for seven weeks.

An amendment to be put by junior doctors, who have called for the scrapping of the review body and direct negotiations, seeks support for strong and truly independent arbitration machinery, to be used only after the breakdown of direct negotiations.

Earlier yesterday Dr. A. W. Macrae, of Bristol, said the royal commission on NHS was no cure for its ills. Its troubles were too pressing. Let the Government decide to say what can and will be supplied to meet the demands of patients, he said.

His view was supported by the delegates, who passed a motion stating that the Government should be pressed to give more money to the service and support the public expectations

of care which it had encouraged. If it could not do so, it should identify those parts it could not afford.

Although some voices were raised in protest, the meeting showed its satisfaction at the failure of the Abortion (Amendment) Bill in the Commons. Speakers said the Bill was not dead and the issue would undoubtedly be raised again.

Dr. John Marks, a member of council and of the association's abortion law reform panel, said that since the Act there had been an enormous change in the attitude of the annual representative meeting and of the profession. They had moved away from having concealed hostility, partly because working doctors had seen the enormous benefits of the Act.

Sceptic abortion had almost vanished and the tours and abortion sharks were largely of business. If Mr. Benn's Bill had gone through it would have turned back the clock to pre-1967 days when there was abortion on demand for the rich here or abroad, and backstreet abortion for the rest.

The meeting was concerned that even about whooping cough vaccine had not been in a significant drop in the number of children being immunized against diseases. Dr. J. R. Preston, a community physician and member of the council, said that so many different views had been expressed so many experts and groups that there was complete confusion in the mind of the public.

His motion regretting the manner in which the Department of Health had handled the controversy was carried. Dr. John Noble, a general practitioner from Newcastle upon Tyne and a council member, said that on balance the danger of discontinuing whooping cough vaccination was greater than the danger of continuing it.

The meeting heard from Dr. Robert Johnston, of the royal college of hospital doctors' committee, of the difficulties of about six thousand overseas doctors who, because they are on the temporary register, have to pay £20 every time they move from one post to another. Some moved several times a year.

It was agreed that the BMA should seek through a reformed General Medical Council a fair system of registration for overseas doctors.

Financial troubles of provincial acting

Five cities may lose their theatres unless local councils help

By Alan Hamilton

Five English cities may lose their theatres within nine months unless public money can be found to keep them open.

The cities are Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol and Oxford, and the threat arises from financial troubles in the provincial theatre chains of Moss Empires and Howard and Wyndham. The controversy over the future of their theatres has been aired recently in the letters column of *The Times*.

Touring theatres, as distinct from local repertory theatres, are survivors from the pre-television age, and, with seating capacities of between 1,500 and 2,000, are the only theatres capable of accommodating such touring productions as the Royal Ballet or English National Opera.

Promoters, managers and unions fear that any further reduction in the number of large provincial houses will make the business of touring an important production even more of a financial risk than it already is.

Howard and Wyndham still owns the Opera House, Manchester, the New Theatre, Oxford, and the Royal Court, Liverpool. Moss Empires owns the Hippodrome, Birmingham, the Hippodrome, Bristol, the Empire, Liverpool, and the Palace, Manchester. Elsewhere there are a few touring theatres in private hands.

Both companies say their theatres are uneconomic and will have to close soon if they are forced to run on a strictly commercial basis. Within recent days both companies have had a say of execution, for the Arts Council has rescued the Howard and Wyndham theatres at least until Christmas and the Moss theatres until March.

The theatre owners and the Arts Council would like to see all the houses taken over and run by the local authorities, but councils are understandably unwilling to take on new financial burdens in such times of economic stringency, when there are more pressing calls on the rates, such as emptying dustbins and maintaining street lights.

Reasons for the economic decline of the big provincial theatres are not hard to find. Good drama can be seen on television or in local repertory theatres, where the atmosphere is more conducive to an intimate production. There are simply not enough big opera, ballet and musical productions to go round. Theatre audiences moreover, have become very discriminating.

Mr. Louis Benjamin, chairman of Moss Empires, said last week that there was a lack of attractions in provincial theatres, with stars now preferring to work on television or in clubs.

"We were fortunate to get

Hans Andersen on tour with Tommy Steele, but the last night's show was *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Star* in 1976." Mr. Benjamin said. Other theatre managers report being able to sell every seat for a performance of the Royal Opera, Ballet Rambert, the Royal Shakespeare Company and the other small groups still touring. But no theatre can book the Royal Opera every week of the year.

The leading national touring companies are Royal Opera, Royal Ballet, Ballet Rambert, English National Opera, Welsh and Scottish Operas, Glyndebourne, Prospect Theatre, Theatre, Cambridge Theatre and the National Theatre. The National has for some time adopted a policy of "visits", taking a production fresh from the South Bank to one provincial town for one or two weeks; and coming home again.

Other touring companies have found that costs have rocketed, fares alone having risen by four fifths in two years. All agree that any serious reduction in the number of provincial houses capable of staging large productions is going to make touring even more uneconomic.

But the picture is not all black. Arts Council support for touring companies went up to £1.1m in the last financial year, compared with £802,000 the

previous year. And many large provincial theatres run by local authorities are doing well. Their number is surprisingly large.

England still has 31 large touring theatres and 18 repertory theatres large enough to make the occasional touring company. In Wales there are two touring theatres, and five more that can be pressed into service. Scotland has seven large touring theatres. All but a handful are in some form of municipal ownership, and some are doing well.

Mr. Warren Smith, manager of the Grand Theatre, Leeds, has been a local authority since his house was sold by Howard and Wyndham to the city in 1973 for about £350,000. He boasts that last year his theatre had a turnover of £500,000, and had to call on only £950 from the ratepayers.

In the past year, among other productions, he has staged *English National Opera*, *Deborah Kerr in Candide*, the RSC's *Man and Superman*, *Danish La Rue*, Ballet Rambert, *Elton John*, the musical *Ipi Tomi*, *Cliff Richard* and *Jimmy Jewel* in *The Commodore*. His theatre has 1,554 seats.

His theatre is open 51 weeks of the year and has on average about 15 weeks of drama, six weeks of pantomime and the rest a mixture of variety, opera, pop concerts and pro-

ductions by the city's amateur operatic societies. "If the community wants these big theatres, then the communities are going to have to take them over. We are lucky in Leeds, because we have an active theatre-going public. But you must give them good quality," Mr. Smith said.

"The difficulty is that there are just not enough good quality productions going around. Instead of pouring public money into saving theatre buildings, some of it might be better used to encourage good new writers for the theatre."

The Grand comes itself lucky if it sells half its seats for an average drama production, and it can see the decline of pantomime, once a 10-week Christmas attraction, now down to six weeks. But other shows during the year clearly compensate.

Since the recent formation of the Theatre Trust, which has statutory powers to examine any planning applications for change of use of a theatre building, no theatre need be in immediate danger. But the trust has no money to save an individual theatre and will have to rely on the not inconsiderable fundraising talents of its chairman, Lord Goodman.

Some managers have said that the blame for the financial difficulties of some provincial

theatres can be laid. Equity, the actors' union, which wants to "unimagine" fringe of the theatre a thereby push up costs. Equity rejects the allegations and says the sooner all provincial theatres are in public ownership the better.

Apart from Howard and Wyndham and Moss, the only company with any big theatre interest is EML. Like others, it does not find it important sources of profit, it is able to minimize its loss by making them parts "leisure complexes". Like Winter Gardens at Blackpool, the Grand at Blackpool remains unwilling to take a long-term view. The Grand had to close years ago because it did not meet public health regulations; with seven of theatres in the town, it was doomed. But it is to open on Monday. After two years it will return to being a local pressure group.

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Five Cabinet ministers support anti-left grass-roots group

By Our Political Reporter

Five Cabinet ministers have come out in support for the Campaign for Labour Victory, a grass-roots organisation set up to halt the leftward drift inside the constituency parties.

They are Mr. Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, Mrs. Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, Dr. Owen, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Mr. Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Mr. Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services.

The campaign carries none-too-distant echoes of the old Campaign for Democratic Socialism, which overthrew the party's nuclear disarmament stance in 1960 and had Mr. Rodgers as one of its chief organizers. Moreover, the Midlands region

of the party continued many of its key activists, and the new organization has Mr. Cyril Wilkinson, leader of the Labour group on Birmingham City Council, as chairman of its steering committee.

More ministerial support is promised in the near future and one of the campaign's main targets is the structure and behaviour of the national executive committee. That is clearly shown in a combative article in the latest issue of its broadsheet.

"A Labour Government fighting for its life with its back to the ropes has had to watch out, not only for the frontal attacks of its Tory opponents but also for sly jabs from NEC members, nominally at least, in its own corner", it states. The campaign would like to

see a new section on the national executive reflecting local government, partly because the moderates inside the party have so far been unable to break the stranglehold that the left has in voting their nominees to the constituency party section.

None the less, they declare that they will support the reelection of Mrs. Williams to the women's section, which has five members, and the campaign is also canvassing support for Miss Betty Boothroyd and Dr. Shirley Summerskill, both of whom have made unsuccessful attempts in the past.

It is also canvassing on behalf of Mr. Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, to wrest the treasurer's post from Mr. Norman Atkinson, a leading member of the Tribune group of MPs.

Confrontation was set up, pilot says

Edisow Helicopters, the air charter company, which was affected by a seven-week strike of pilots, set up a confrontation to crush attempts to form a pilot's group, suggested it was at the Glasgow inquiry in the dispute yesterday.

The allegation came from Captain James Lyons, of Inverclyde, chairman of more than fifty pilots whose strike at Aberdeen in April and May threatened to disrupt North Sea oil production.

Captain Lyons, now working for another company in Norway, said he would have been frightened to death if he had not sent his company to crush a pilot's group before its inception. This was a confrontation which the company put up as an issue to destroy the cohesion of the pilots.

He said that if three people, the strike committee, got into negotiations with the chairman he would come off best. He is a millionaire. We are just pilots. We are not in his league.

He said Brislow could have stopped the dispute before it began and he felt that Captain Peter Royston, whose dismissal led to the strike, was being set up as an excuse for a fight with the British Airline Pilots' Association.

"The chairman could see the recognition issue looming and would once again to crush a pilot's group before its inception. This was a confrontation which the company put up as an issue to destroy the cohesion of the pilots."

MP defend High Court ruling on benefit

By Pat Healy

Miss Margaret Thatcher, Labour MP for Barking, said last night to challenge relations laid before Parliament that would overturn a Court judgment affecting million claimants of supplementary benefit each year.

At the same time, she said, the Government of Health, Social Security were instructing local staff to take account of the judgment made on Wed day.

The judgment overturned practice of the Supplemental Benefits Commission in paying claims from the date designated "pay day" instead of from the date of the claim itself. Mr. David South aged 36, of Bristol, was awarded £20 back benefit for him his wife and child as a result.

The Government, aware case was pending, had legislated to "remove legal doubt" inserting a clause into Social Security (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, which came into force at Easter. However, relevant section of the Act did not take effect until July under regulations laid by Parliament on July 8.

Social security staff are told to apply the ruling to July 29, although department officials believe it will be administratively difficult to do so for a week. Miss Thatcher's decision to challenge regulations will mean that all claimants will be entitled to extra money the period between their claim and the first payment.

Claimants have 21 day appeal, so claims before date will be out of time. Group estimates that claimants may be entitled back payments.

Mr. Henry Hodge, solicitor the group, said: "We have been arguing for years the official interpretation of legislation was wrong and have sought to respect a number of tribunals. We finally forced to go to the Court because the Government refused to budge, and it is a pity that decision by any means change the law."

The department said: "Days" were used for administrative simplicity, and change would probably be overpayments at the end of period on benefit. It would not have to respect claims in the light of the Court judgment for what was "fairly small average amounts."

The department was set to quantify the average amount owed, but said it was much less than that put by Mr. South. The administrative cost would £10m a year, it estimated.

£1m to be asked for 12-bedroom flat in Piccadilly

A price of £1m has been set for the largest flat at 22-23 St. Street, Piccadilly, London. The flat, which is a Victorian Edwardian block being renovated and altered.

Basically, two flats are into one, it covers the 1st floor and will provide 12 reception rooms, 12 bedrooms and nine bathrooms, totalling 6,250 sq ft. The lease for 99 years.

Other flats are priced £35,000 to £55,000 for one room units, up to £85,000 for those with two, and a unit with seven bedrooms £150,000.

Three of the smaller have been sold before completion. The scheme is by Eton East. The estate is three Gerard Smith and Co.

Government call for review aimed at establishing 'common core' curriculum

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

The Government will ask local education authorities to review their arrangements for curricula in schools with the object of establishing a "protected part" or "core" of subjects and national principles common to all schools.

Mrs. Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, and Mr. Morris, Secretary of State for Wales, who has responsibility for schools in Wales, are to invite local authorities and teachers' associations to take part in consultations on the proposed review before the end of the month.

A circular will be issued in the autumn asking local authorities to report the results within about 12 months. The departments will then "analyse the replies as a preliminary to consultations on the outcome of the review and the nature of any advice the secretaries of state might then issue on curricular matters", the Government's Green Paper on Schools in England and Wales, published yesterday, says.

The consultative document makes clear that while control of secular instruction in schools rests with the local education authority, with much of the responsibility in practice being devolved to the head teacher in each school, it would not be compatible with the local duties of the secretaries of state to promote the education of the children of England and Wales, published yesterday, says.

The Government's goal was to educate all children to the highest standards of which they were capable. The secretaries of state would therefore "seek to establish a broad agreement with their partners in the education service on a framework for the curriculum, and particularly on which subjects there are common to all schools and to all pupils at certain stages, there should be a 'core' or 'protected part'".

Since the Second World War, the Government has not sought to enter the so-called "secret garden" of the curriculum, which has been regarded as the exclusive domain of the teachers. This bold departure from tradition has been prompted by growing public criticism of educational aims, standards and achievements that formed the background to the Prime Minister's speech at Ruskin College, Oxford, last October, and the setting up of the "great debate" on education.

The Green Paper examines those criticisms and finds some of them to be fair. Children were not sufficiently aware of the importance of industry to our society and were not taught enough about it. In some schools the curriculum had been overloaded so that the basic skills of literacy and numeracy had been neglected. A small minority of schools had simply failed to provide modern education by modern standards.

More frequently, schools had been too ambitious, introducing modern languages without adequate staff to meet the needs of much wider range of pupils, or embarking on new methods of teaching mathematics without making sure the teachers understood what they were teaching, or whether it was appropriate to the pupils' capacities or the needs of future employers.

Other criticisms were misplaced, however. It was untrue that there had been a general decline in educational standards. Recent studies had shown clearly that the reading ability of today's schoolchildren was better than those of 30 years ago. Far more than ever, a wider ability range, studied a modern language or science. Many more took and passed public examinations and more went on to full-time higher education.

Curriculum

During the past 10 years education had undergone remarkable and great changes. Primary schools had been transformed by the introduction of a much wider curriculum, and by the rapid growth of the so-called "child-centred" approach to teaching.

In the right kind of approach had produced confident, happy and relaxed children, without any sacrifice to the three Rs or other academic standards. Indeed, steadily improvement in standards. But it had proved a trap for some less able or less experienced teachers to expect teachers alone to meet the needs of the children. The challenge was now to restore the rigour without damaging the real benefits of the child-centred development.

There was no need for great changes in the range of what was taught. There were some skills, however, for which schools had an overriding responsibility. Literacy and numeracy were the most important of those, and no other curriculum should deflect teachers from them.

In secondary schools there had also been great changes in the range of choices now available. In most schools the curriculum was broadly traditional for the first three years, but thereafter options began to shape the curriculum significantly. The freedom to choose some pupils to abandon certain areas of study at an early stage.

The wisdom of that was questionable in society like ours, where the rapidity of change put a premium on the sound acquisition of certain basic skills developed in up-to-date terms to the limit of a pupil's ability and interest.

Few would contest that alongside English and mathematics, science should find a secure place in the curriculum at least to the age of 16, and that a modern language should be so far as high a proportion as practicable.

It was clear that the time had come to try to establish acceptable principles for the composition of the secondary curriculum for all pupils. That did not presuppose uniform answers, however. Schools were different, and the curriculum should be flexible enough to reflect those differences. But there was need to investigate what should be the "protected" or "core" element in the curriculum common to all schools.

The general acceptance of the idea of a core curriculum would also help to minimize the difficulties when children move from area to area. The matter needed the attention of the central authorities, not least to ensure that parents whose jobs demand mobility should not be deterred for fear of disruption of their children's schooling.



Mrs. Williams at yesterday's press conference to launch the Green Paper.

While there was undoubtedly a need for much closer links between industry and schools, it was unrealistic to expect teachers alone to remove the antipathy of some young people towards certain jobs. If more able young people were to be persuaded to enter a career in industry and commerce, the remedy lay with the companies and firms and only to a minor degree with the schools.

In Wales children should be given the opportunity to have Welsh in their curriculum in accordance with the Welsh Language Act and where practical considerations allow". The Secretary of State for Wales was considering requests from several organizations for special grants to be made towards the cost of bilingual education.

Standards

Local education authorities needed to be able to assess the relative performance of individual schools, taking account of examination and test results, reports by inspectors and advisers, and self-assessment by the schools. But "league tables" based on examination or standardized test results taken in isolation could be seriously misleading.

Individual pupils needed to be assessed so that teachers could know about their progress and needs; so that the pupils could know about their own rates of progress and to provide incentives to better performance; so that parents could be informed of their children's progress; and so that information was provided about pupils who went on to another school, to a place of further or higher education, or to a job.

Several assessment procedures were used by teachers. The education departments intended to encourage the development of more standardized diagnostic tests in the interests of consistency. National tests of basic literacy and numeracy for children at set ages were, however, rejected by the Government on the grounds that children develop at different rates and that the temptation of schools

to coach pupils for such tests would risk distorting the curriculum.

Public examination results were of limited usefulness for providing information about school-leavers. They did not offer a comprehensive picture of the abilities of an individual, and many pupils left school without achieving a graded result. Attainments, motivation and personal qualities not reflected in examination results would be of interest to employers and others.

The Government was therefore considering commissioning a national study into the possibilities of a leaving certificate for all pupils. There were several practical difficulties, however. What would be the values of such certificates unless consistent standards were used? There was a risk that they might be more of a discouragement to those whose certificates were unfavourable than a stimulus to the rest. The production of honest and

frank reports could engender controversy between parents and teachers.

The secretaries of state were studying the Schools Council's proposals for the introduction of a common system of public examinations at the age of 16-plus, for a new examination at 17-plus, and for changes in the 18-plus A-level examinations. They would also discuss with the council the possibility of fitting examinations into a "grouped certificate" alongside single-subject examinations into their present programme.

But the Government was determined that any changes introduced should stand the test of time, and that the examinations of the future, as of the present, should have national currency and acceptance. Decisions would therefore be taken only when such action could be taken with confidence.

Schools should develop clear systems for keeping and transmitting records of the educational development of individual pupils. Records should be subject to clearly understood and agreed controls on what information was kept and what not; on what was shared and what not; and on full regard must also be paid to the rights of parents, as well as those of teachers and pupils, to know what was being recorded, and to have access to it.

The Government has asked local education authorities as part of their review of curricula to examine and report on present practices in relation to keeping pupil records, including arrangements for parents to see records and the currency the records should have. Records should be subject to regular professional scrutiny in record-keeping and reasonable consistency of practice between different areas.

Teachers

It was upon the supply of good teachers in adequate numbers that the strength of the education system must rest. There was no hope of implementing successfully the proposals in the Green Paper without the full understanding and support of the teaching profession. The key to the quality of the production of a satisfactory curriculum and in training and career development.

In the past 10 years the number of qualified teachers had grown by almost a half. That had enabled the country to meet the demand for teachers in the schools and to be regarded as a smokescreen to divert attention from the effects of the cuts on the education of the nation's children", he added.

Mr. John Morrell, chairman of the Council for Educational Authorities, representing the 104 authorities in England and Wales, said he thought the paper was a landmark in the history of education. He wanted to repeat, on the basis of the council, the pledge made to the Secretary of State at the beginning of the debate that it would give its constructive cooperation in tackling the whole question of curricula, standards and assessment.

"We are ready to enter with hope and purpose into what must be the long discussion ahead on the wide range of matters mentioned in the Green Paper", he said.

Mr. Morrell said he was glad that the paper "clearly nails the myth that there had been a general decline in education standards". Mr. Roy Harding, chairman of the Chief of Education Officers and the Chief Education Officer for Buckinghamshire, was also pleased that the paper had "put the record straight" on that issue.

He considered the document to have been well thought out and to have been a good basis for further discussion. He said he believed the proposal for consultations on what to do with ineffective teachers in the past few years could afford to keep them on in a superannuation

The Government wanted an all-graduate entry into the profession and a new standard of competence among teachers at the early stages of their career.

The Government's expenditure plans envisaged increased financial provision for the in-service training and retraining of qualified teachers to help them to keep abreast of new subjects and techniques, and to enable them to fill vacancies in shortage-subject areas. In-service provision at present was widely from area to area and in some authorities was quite inadequate.

Local education authorities should develop more systematic approaches to the recruitment, career development, training and deployment of their teacher force. For that purpose they would need to improve the quality of information about teachers, their ages, qualifications, spheres of duty, and so on. They should also consider whether their present arrangements for securing the best possible appointments to headships.

While most teachers gave devoted and efficient service, there remained those teachers at all levels whose performance fell below any acceptable level of efficiency". In a period when more well-qualified applicants were likely to be available than the schools could recruit, all those concerned needed to deal with that difficulty.

Some teachers might decide in their own minds to leave the profession. Others might be found alternative posts within the authority's service. Some might benefit from a further four years' training. But there would still be a "difficult residue of cases where no effective remedy presents itself, and who are secure in the best possible appointments to headships."

Extensive consultation between teachers' associations and the local education authorities was needed to establish "standard procedures for the assessment of teachers' performance, for promotion, and where necessary, warning to teachers whose performance is consistently unsatisfactory, and for all the other steps that might be required to ensure that the best possible protection legislation, or judged necessary as part of a fair procedure for considering dismissal of staff."

Once those procedures had been satisfactorily established, the teachers' associations "could reasonably be expected to take account of the broader interests of education service in forming their view of the authority's action."

Education in schools. A consultative document (Stationery Office, £1.10).

Union warning on 'minefield' of teacher assessment

The Green Paper on education was by and large welcomed by local education authorities and teachers yesterday, but teachers' union leaders warned that such issues as the establishment of procedures to dismiss incompetent or inefficient staff.

Mr. Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, which represents three fifths of teachers in England and Wales, said Mrs. Williams, the Secretary of State, was "entering a minefield" when she suggested that there should be procedures for assessing the performance of teachers.

She would do better to trust the judgement of those charged with the responsibility for running of the schools on such matters, he said. Parts of the paper would be warmly approved, but other parts would not be acceptable. The union would be examining its document with care with a view

to persuading the Government on those matters where it seemed to be "on the wrong track".

He welcomed the reference to resources, but said the paper failed to focus attention on the main difficulty confronting the education service—"the devastating effects of the expenditure cuts now being contemplated."

"It is not enough to talk of the realities of life in the schools and to be regarded as a smokescreen to divert attention from the effects of the cuts on the education of the nation's children", he added.

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HOME NEWS

Sons 'hold hundreds of mental hospitals'

The report speaks of considerable concern about a shortage of services for the mentally ill. The shortage has prevented the use of the purpose-built mother-and-baby unit at Ashford Grange open prison and is limiting accommodation in a similar unit at Holloway.

Yet there has been a marked increase in the number of pre-arranged inmates and those with young babies.

Examining the record prison population figures reached during the year, the report says there was a decrease of almost a fourth in the number of males awaiting trial or sentence and a smaller decrease in the average population of both senior and junior detention centres.

There has been a steady reduction during the past four years in the number of male prisoners, who escaped from prisons and remained at large. In 1973 there were 389 escapes; in 1974 373; in 1975 364; in 1976 346.

Report on the Work of the Prison Department, 1976. Command 6872 (Stationery Office, £1.65).

MPs set High Court for Scots courts to order compensation urged

about the cost to the Exchequer of the criminal bankruptcy procedure, but it says that 97 criminal bankruptcies orders made in England and Wales between June, 1973, and August, 1976, and petitions were presented in about 80 of them.

Thatcher warns Tories to be caught off guard

"Now it is clear that millions of people who have been lukewarm Labour supporters are there for the winning if we go out to convert them to our views," she said.

Drinking in moderation 'may aid heart'

By Our Medical Correspondent
Moderate alcohol consumption may be good for the heart, according to a report from the United States in *The Lancet* today. Research at the United States National Institutes of Health has shown that men who drink about 12 glasses of wine a week, or the equivalent in beer or spirits, seem to have a lower risk of coronary thrombosis than total abstainers, as measured by the proportions of different types of fat in the bloodstream.

plans inhibited

Lord Aldington, chairman of the advisory council, said last night that the council had a report from Sir Charles Curran, the director-general. Some time during this year, Lord Aldington said, the BBC came up against its borrowing limit, and that would be a little later rather than earlier because of "certain windfalls". Nevertheless it was becoming extremely difficult to plan for the future.

WEST EUROPE

Mr Jenkins arrives in London for last of introductory visits to EEC capitals as Commission head

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the European Commission, was in London yesterday for talks with Mr Callaghan, the Prime Minister. He will be a guest of Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, for lunch today and will be received by the Queen.

The visit is the last of Mr Jenkins's visits to the capitals of the nine to introduce himself to the Commission President.

Mr Jenkins will also see Mr Reun, Secretary of State for Energy, to discuss prospects for the joint European Turus (JET) nuclear fusion project.

The vexed question of JET, with Britain pressing strongly the claims of Culham, near

Oxford, will be discussed again by foreign ministers of the EEC next week. Mr Jenkins is also expected to call on Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition.

Michael Harris writes from Brussels: This visit could be said to mark the end of the opening phase of Mr Jenkins's presidency.

On the whole, it has not been a happy debut. In the first place, Mr Jenkins has managed the transition from active involvement in national politics to a supposedly impartial European role less skilfully than some of his predecessors.

M. Francois-Xavier Ortoli, the outgoing President, may in practice have promoted French interests no less energetically than Mr Jenkins does British ones, but he developed a more convincing "communitaire" style. When Mr Ortoli said "We" he was usually referring to the EEC as a whole, whereas Mr Jenkins generally means "Britain".

More important, perhaps, the Commission for the first time has in Mr Jenkins a president who makes no secret of being much less committed than some EEC member states to the federalist concept of European development, which remains the orthodox theology in Brussels, even if it now has more form than substance.

Mr Jenkins's own view of the future development of the EEC is close to the pragmatic one expressed by Mr Anthony Crosland, the late Foreign Secretary, in his speech to the European Parliament last January at the start of the six-month British presidency of the Council of Ministers.

Like Mr Crosland, he appears to favour neither a federalist solution nor the glorified free trade area which many see the EEC heading for. He believes the EEC is developing a wholly new constitutional personality out of the dialectic between Community and national interests.

Cleaning up world's biggest sewer

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, July 21

A controversial inventory of pollution in the Mediterranean is being drawn up by a United Nations-sponsored conference that is going on in Monaco all this week. The figures, which are being kept secret until a big intergovernmental meeting in Monaco next November, have been drawn up by researchers in the 17 nations taking part in the conference.

With the cost of cleaning up what has been called the "big sewer in the south" estimated at £2,500 million over the next 15 years, individual countries have not been over anxious to accept too much of the blame for the pollution in their figures.

Nevertheless, the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) has set up marine laboratories all round the coast to monitor and

research pollution levels and the aim is to introduce international laws to control these levels. The conference in Monaco has thus, with some argument, been able to come to an agreement of a sort on figures.

Three main pollution problems are concerning the experts. The first is the high incidence of mercury found in tuna and swordfish in the sea. Two specimens of tuna have been found to have an amount three times higher than that found in fish in the Atlantic and higher than the safety threshold permitted in most Mediterranean countries.

The second problem is from oil pollution and again the Mediterranean seems the worst affected sea in the world. This is menacing birds, oyster beds and mussels and even though fish seem to be able to withstand it they become unfit to eat.

Dr Stepan Kockes, the Yugoslav in charge of the survey programme, says: "The grave and rapidly growing pollution in the coastal waters of the Mediterranean is becoming more and more prejudicial to the economic and social well-being of the countries which border it and to the health of its people."

Ex-envoy charged over Fiat chief kidnap case

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, July 21

French police, who feel they have been made fools of in the case of Signor Luchino Revelli-Beaumont, the kidnapped chief of Fiat in France, have freed on July 11 for a £1,175,000 ransom, have started proceedings against M. Albert Chambon, a former French ambassador in Latin America, who acted as go-between in the negotiations between the family and the kidnappers.

M. Chambon, who is a Grand Officer of the Legion of Honour, was ambassador to Costa Rica, Panama, Ceylon and Peru, and backed by the Quai d'Orsay in 1974.

He is chairman of the board of the agricultural machinery branch of Fiat and founder of an organization for promoting relations between Latin America and France, of which M. Olivier Giscard d'Estaing, the President's brother, is chairman. He has a distinguished war and Resistance record.

This charge surprises and revolts Mr Chambon. "I have the conviction that I did my duty as a friend, but also as a citizen, in a matter which involved the saving of a man's life. I am happy to have helped to do so. I do not understand how the police could believe that the life of Signor Revelli-Beaumont was not in danger. I am convinced of the opposite."

This morning he said that if the police had done their work properly, there would have been no need for any go-betweens.

M. Chambon is charged with protecting criminals from arrest. If he is found guilty he could be jailed for up to three years and fined up to 15,000 francs (nearly £2,000).

A statement by the Ministry of Justice said that the ambassador had repeated contacts with the kidnappers without informing the judicial authorities or the police.

Lip workers 'foil attempt to cut off gas'

From Our Own Correspondent

Paris, July 21

A balliffs' attempt to cut the gas main into the Lip watch factory at Besançon was foiled today by workers involved in the occupation of the plant, according to a statement.

The statement, signed by the Socialist and Communist parties and by unions backed by the parties, said that the signatures were ready to oppose all further "acts of violence by the authorities".

"Enough is enough," the statement said. "For several weeks repression of the workers had been growing." It listed sabotage of the electricity transformer, "theft" of watches and questioning of workers.

The Lip factory has been occupied for just over a year after a stormy three-year run into bankruptcy, confirmed by the Court of Appeal earlier this month. Since mid-June the workers have been selling watches made during a "work-in" to pay wages and there have been two police raids on the factory to confiscate any that are found.

Dynamite used to end Madrid jail riot

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, July 21

After a battle lasting most of the afternoon, police today subdued the three-day riot here at the big Carabanchel prison. Police and firemen began their assault on the building under a curtain of smoke grenades and tear gas bombs.

Fire truck ladders went up against the walls as men in helicopters buried smoke and tear gas bombs at the rioters on the roof.

By late afternoon, police using dynamite had blown their way through blocked galleries to reach the largest group of rebel prisoners on the roof. As the battle ended, the prisoners, some of them injured, were brought down in groups of five under a heavy guard.

The interior of the prison was a shambles, with everything a breakable, broken and everything burnable burnt.

During the fighting, a rubber bullet with a message scrawled on a cigarette packet wrapped round it bounced into a group of journalists outside the prison.

The note said: "Situation critical. Prison officers, riot police, civil guards and firemen attacking. No water, food; no medical attention. We want International Red Cross. Have badly injured. If no negotiations there will be a massacre. They are dynamiting their way to the roof. Eight hundred lives in danger. SOS, SOS."

An earlier attempt by police to storm the building behind a barrage of rubber bullets and smoke bombs was beaten off by prisoners, who fought with iron bars and roof tiles. Police were under orders not to use pistols, rifles or machine guns.

Up to midday, lawyers continued to come and go in the cordoned-off area, apparently attempting to work out a compromise between authorities and prisoners. But when a police ultimatum ran out at noon the final assault began.

The forces included four companies of specially trained riot police, as well as numerous units of the Civil Guard and security police.



Riot police with shields take up shooting positions on top of a prison building moments before the final assault began.

Shortly afterwards, journalists, both Spanish and foreign, were hustled out of the area, some at gunpoint. Mounted police charged into reporters, spectators and relatives of prisoners. Tape recorders, cameras and notebooks were either confiscated or left lying on the ground in a pall of smoke as police galloped through the area.

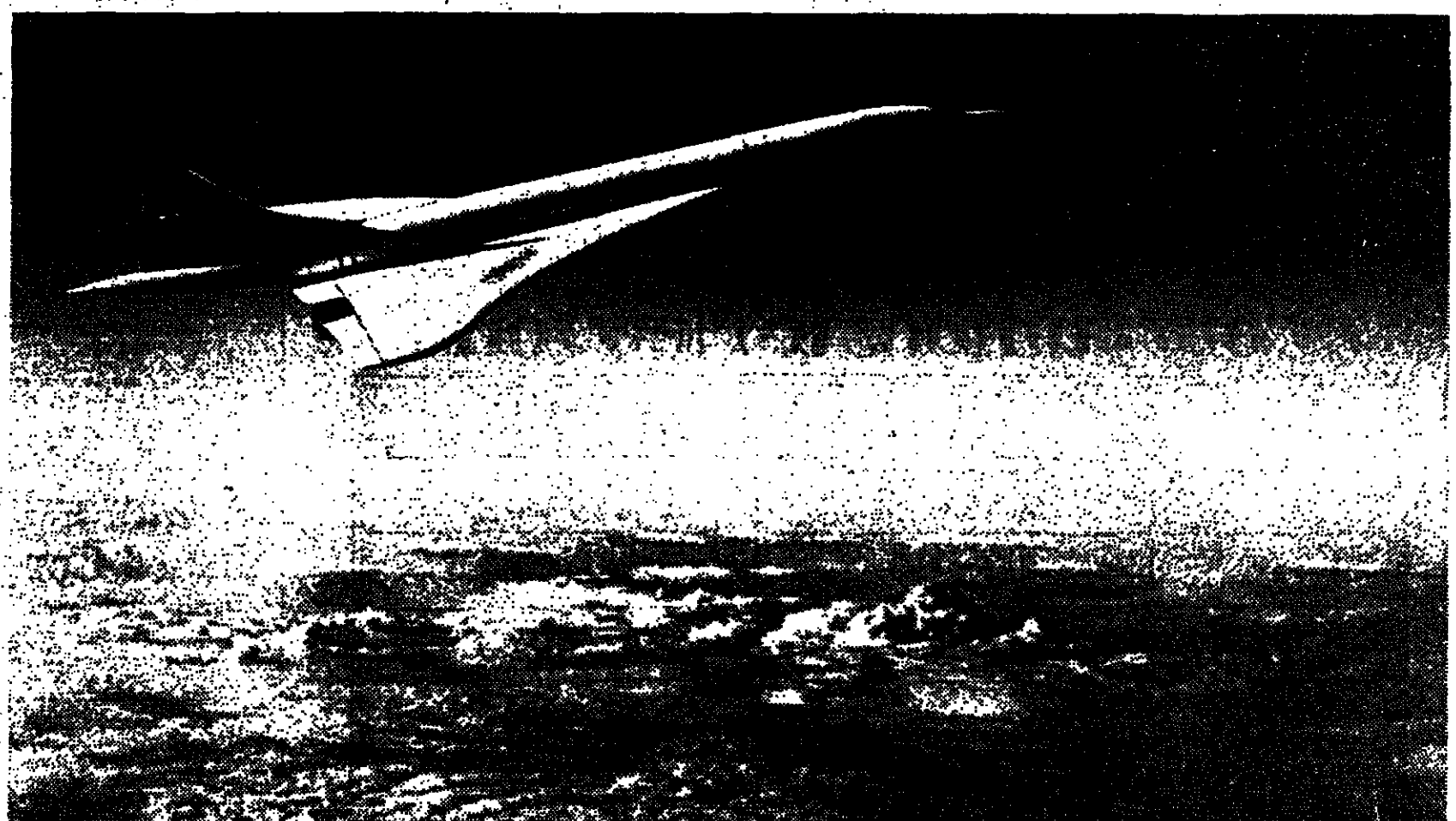
Six or seven fire trucks were parked inside the entrance patio to the prison, behind the big iron gates. A number of small fires believed to have been started deliberately by sympathizers with the mutinous prisoners, blazed away in woodland on one side of the prison without any attempt by firemen to put them out.

One Spanish reporter, describing the scene by radio telephone from a car after all his colleagues had been ousted, remarked that he could not understand how police had failed to spot him.

He described the scene as "full-scale battle, complete with smoke and loud bangs". In his last report, he mentioned a large explosion which coincided with prisoners' claims that police were dynamiting their way to the rooftop.

The Carabanchel rebellion involved about 800 prisoners convicted of criminal offences who were demanding an amnesty, such as that granted to political prisoners, as well as other concessions. They began the riot on Monday when a group of prisoners gathered on the rooftop, to display sheets on which they had painted their demands.

Prison riots in other parts of Spain, apparently set off by the one in Madrid, were all reported to be under control by this morning, long before the final assault at Carabanchel.

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AIR FRANCE

WEST EUROPE

M Chirac opposed to Barre election role

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, July 21

Two days after the summit meeting of the leaders of the three French majority parties, their new-found unity appears more fragile than their officially proclaimed satisfaction over the progress achieved would lead one to believe.

Agreement may have been reached on an electoral pact on the lines called for by M. Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, and Gaullist leader, but many ambiguities remain in the different parties' attitudes to such key issues as the role of M. Barre, the Prime Minister, in the preparations for the elections next March and the selection of candidates, and the common objectives of the Government majority.

M. Chirac has made it clear that he is not disposed, in return for the Government's concession to allow the parties to decide on campaign tactics and candidates to allow the Prime Minister to play a part in long term strategy, and in the definition of the Government coalition's "common objectives".

He said yesterday that he saw no point in the holding in September of another summit of party leaders, to be presided

over by M. Barre. The agreements on candidates and the campaign would be concluded by then, and the Prime Minister would, M. Chirac implied, merely be left to endorse a fait accompli. But he was not averse to calling on his personally to discuss "general political problems".

M. Chirac also said that there was no question of M. Barre arbitrating between the candidates of different parties or drawing up an "action programme" of the majority after the elections, as President Giscard d'Estaing had suggested earlier this month.

Such a programme, in his opinion, would only be a worthless compromise, more likely to prove a drawback than a help to the coalition parties in their campaigning.

The Republican Party leaders do not agree. They want the Prime Minister to play a central role in the campaign and they claim that the notion of policy "objectives" for the Government majority is much more than a purely electoral agreement. The Radical Socialists also want the Prime Minister to play a role in the extent of organizing "primaries" between the majority parties.

New Hebrides programme for independence in 1980

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, July 21

Steps towards the independence of the New Hebrides in 1980 have been set out in a final communiqué by the French and British delegations meeting here to work out the South Pacific condominium's future.

A new election for a representative assembly is to be held before December this year which, save time, will follow the existing voting system.

With the new assembly elected, there is to be another ministerial conference in December or January at Vila, the island group's principal town, to decide, after consultation with the

assembly, the rules for the composition of a government and to decide on a detailed calendar leading to independence.

In the first months of next year a system of internal autonomy is to be set up.

Independence will be proclaimed after a new round of elections and a referendum in the second half of 1980.

The communiqué regretted that the main political party in the islands—the Vanuatu Party—had decided not to be present, but said that its point of view had been considered in the three days of talks.

Danish newspaper strike over 'protection money'

From Our Correspondent
Copenhagen, July 21

Printing staff on the Danish provincial newspaper *Sjællandstidende* went on strike today to show support for their shop steward who was ordered off the premises by the management yesterday after an allegation that he accepted "protection money" from a customer whose publication is printed on the newspaper's presses.

The management and the union agree that the customer had agreed to pay the equivalent of about 500 kroner a year into a benefit fund for printing staff to avoid his publication being involved in any future unofficial disputes at the plant. The management said it dis-

missed the shop steward for making the agreement, the union said the management was aware of the arrangement and dismissed the shop steward for other reasons.

Mr Bjarne Nielsen, deputy chairman of the local union, said such agreements were not usual, but he knew of three made in the past two years. The payment was an expression of good will and had no contractual value. The union was not interested in receiving such money.

The customer involved said he had reached a gentlemen's agreement with the shop steward, but denied having made any payment or having obtained any benefit from the agreement.

OVERSEAS

Troop talks close with skirmish on new arms

From Sue Masterman
Vienna, July 21

The threat of the neutron bomb and the Cruise missile have been grasped gratefully by the Warsaw Pact delegations at the stagnant mutual and balanced force reduction negotiations in Vienna to distract attention from the conference's failure to tackle the real issues at stake.

In an unscheduled statement read by the Soviet delegation's spokesman, Mr Albert Semenov, after the 145th plenary meeting since the conference started in 1973, the Nato countries were accused of trying to obtain advantages, and of trying to increase their missiles while force reduction negotiations were in progress.

The Soviet spokesman, who specifically mentioned the neutron bomb and cruise missile as evidence of this trend, said: "This is not the method of discussing matters with the socialist countries." Western attempts to get the precise number of armed forces maintained by Warsaw Pact countries in central Europe were dismissed as leading the conference into "a jumble of details".

The spokesman for the Western delegation, Baron Willem de Vos van Steenwijk, of The Netherlands, did not mention new armaments in his final statement and said in answer to questions at a press conference that any discussion on the neutron bomb or Cruise missile would be speculative because no decision had been made to deploy them within Nato.

A press conference on force reduction, as held in Vienna today, is almost a contradiction in terms because the negotiations are confidential.

The Warsaw Pact's spokesman, Dr Slawomir Dabrowski, leader of the Polish delegation, was cautioned by the Western spokesman for breaking the confidentiality rule in revealing, in answer to a question, that "the difference between our proposal and the Western proposal lies in the fact that our proposal does not concern organizational structure or location of forces".

The Western delegation is believed to have introduced important new proposals during the past week involving a closer specification of the number of troops stationed in western Europe, split up according to nationality.

West Germany in particular had been reluctant to hand over these figures, but an agreement had been reached during the West German Chancellor's recent talks in Washington. No mention of this was made in the official statements or responses.

"Lack of tangible progress" was how the Warsaw Pact described the end of the twelfth round of talks; the West described it as "an unsatisfactory overall situation".

The two parties cannot agree on the numbers of armed forces now stationed in central Europe.



The body of one of the victims caught in a flooded footbridge is removed by rescuers.

100 feared dead after flood hits mining town

Johnstown, Pennsylvania, July 21.—More than 100 people may have died in floods which have swept through this coal mining town, police said today. The bodies of 32 victims have been found and authorities expect to find more.

"Right now we're beginning to search for victims in the small surrounding towns," a police spokesman said. The death toll could exceed 100. Floodwaters began rising today after sweeping through the town which was devastated in 1889 when 2,200 people died, the worst toll in any American flood.

A wall of water about 12ft

high swept at least 32 persons to their deaths and left hundreds injured. It shredded roads, twisted railway lines and whisked away houses, cars and railway coaches. Many buildings were set on fire by lightning.

President Carter today declared the state of Pennsylvania a major disaster area, permitting the use of federal funds in relief and recovery efforts.

Mr Carter approved today temporary relief payments and for the removal of debris and general repairs. The White House added in a statement that low-interest loans would also be made available to those with small businesses.

Senator John Heinz, who toured the area yesterday, estimated damage at \$100m (\$100m). "I've never seen anything like it," roads were destroyed and trucks tossed round like matchsticks.

Police were patrolling the streets of Johnstown to guard against looting. They had orders to shoot looters on sight.

The flood resulted from a thunderstorm over the area in which more than 7in of rain fell in nine hours. This flooded the Conemaugh River and its tributaries.

Today many small towns near Johnstown were still isolated after floodwaters washed away bridges and roads. Most of the additional people feared dead were in these communities.

An entire caravan park was washed into the river at Seward. The 12ft wall of water was caused by the breaching of Laurel Run Dam, a small earthen structure on the outskirts of Johnstown.

It also brought tragedy to Mr Randy Tester, a 22-year-old National Guard from West Taylor. His mother was snatched from his grasp and drowned in the 12ft tide. Reuter and UPI.

Pretoria forbids black managers

From Our Own Correspondent
Johannesburg, July 21

The South African Government today appeared to be heading for a new dispute with white businessmen who have protested over a ruling by the Minister of Bantu Administration, Mr M. C. Botha, that shops in "white areas" could not have black managers.

Mr Botha said that blacks in white areas were considered "secondary" to whites, "although he denied that the policy was discriminatory. He warned businessmen they could face legal measures.

The ruling has dismayed many white businessmen trying to improve work conditions and encourage job advancement for their black employees. Several hundred blacks are believed to be employed as shop managers in white areas.

Setback for West in SW Africa

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, July 21

There are signs that the formal talks Western envoys are trying to arrange with the South-West Africa People's Organization (Swapo) on proposals for a peaceful settlement in the territory could be seriously hampered by recent political and military moves by the South African Government.

Three developments have raised suspicions that the Government is still determined to impose an ethnic solution on South-West Africa (Namibia), which is due to become independent next year. The five-point Western group has made it clear that it cannot countenance any independence plan which is based on ethnic lines.

The first setback was the announcement that self-government elections were to be held among the territory's 18,000 Basters, people of mixed blood who live mainly in the Rehoboth area, south of the capital Windhoek.

The election announcement led to the temporary withdrawal of the Baster delegation, led by Dr Benjamin Turnhalle, from the multi-racial conference.

Dr Afrika accused South Africa of pressing ahead with its ethnic plans for Namibia despite its agreement with the Western group to hold national non-ethnic elections for a constituent assembly.

The Baster delegation has now agreed to return to the conference after its request for a postponement of the elections was sent to the South African Government.

Dr Afrika is a key figure in the Turnhalle conference and has been one of the prime movers behind attempts to turn it into a non-racial political alliance to contest the constituent assembly elections. The second development to raise doubts about South African intentions was an announcement that a legislative council is to be instituted later this month for the territory's 75,000 Damara, the third largest ethnic group in the country.

The third was the announcement that the South African Defence force would extend its military training programme to all of the 11 main ethnic groups in the country. At present, Ovambos, Kavangos and Basters as well as whites are receiving military training. Mr Clemens Kapuvu, the Herero leader, has also requested military assistance to form a Herero defence force.

Swapo today condemned the proposed expansion of South Africa's military training programme. Mr Nshilongo Tsopoi, the organization's youth secretary, said South Africa had decided to use ethnic forces in its war against Swapo because it could no longer resist the marching revolutionary forces alone.

Sacco and Vanzetti still trouble US opinion

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, July 21

A new round of comm has erupted over the Nicola Sacco and Bart Vanzetti, two Italian men whose execution 50 years divided American opinion and excited the pathy of liberals all over world.

Two days ago, Mr. Sacco's Governor of Massachusetts as 'Sacco Vanzetti Memorial day' proclamation added, it drew a reply to Alvin Fuller, Governor of Massachusetts the time Sacco and Vanzetti were executed.

Mr Fuller, who was the time of the execution the present Governor, had granted himself, his off his state by trying to the memory of two a murderers.

"Unless he has been misinformed and spoke the people of his state, nor Dukakis ought to be from his office," he said.

Sacco and Vanzetti were executed in 1927 of guard in the corner of a robbery. Although pointing to their innocence subsequently uncovered requests for a retrial refused.

In 1927, bowing to pressure, Governor Fuller appointed a committee to inquire into the case. The committee ruled unanimously that the men were guilty, the a declined to grant their cency. There were detentions outside his mans threats against his children's lives.

Sacco and Vanzetti Italian socialists and. They were tried and a in a New England state a substantial Roman population and in 1922 was a "red scare" of Bolshevik revolution in their case. As comm case was the significant of American justice. It is suggested, protest left-wing ideas and An of immigrant stock.

Mr Dukakis avoids t tion of the two men's innocence, referring to the prosecution's abuse procedure.

Statue of Athena in danger

From Mario Modiano
Athens, July 21

Greek archaeologist conservation experts are to save the statue one of the most in exhibits in the Archaeological Museum Athens, which has symptoms of the disease.

Mr Nicholas Yalouris, director of the museum, today said the statue, a fourth century BC, a board of bronzes buried in Piraeus in 1 developed spots chart of corrosion.

The Ministry of and Sciences has great take prompt action to save a possible air ing and purifying much the museum hall with Piraeus bronzes played", he said.

Once this was added, there would danger. All the Piraeus except for the tall Athena, had already been ment consisting of de tilled water baths to e the salts embedded bronze, which had been ground for nearly 2,000 years. The bronze of the Athena, however, had such good condition the simply treated by means to remove it. But air pollution and in the museum had caused changes in the producing the spots 10 places.

Experts on cons have been called in a how to treat the spots purifiers can be installed.

Signor Andreotti visit Saudi Arabia

Rome, July 21.—Signor Andreotti, the Italian Minister, will visit Saudi on August 6 and 7, the ment announced here.

Would she return tics? "If you mean i or wanting to be in she had never been, but she was lawe and a could not herself from the a future.

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Capture of Angolan town by Unita claimed

Windhoek, July 21.—South African officials said today that rebels had captured the southern Angolan town of Cuangar from Government forces after fierce fighting.

Guerrillas of the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) have continued their fight against the Angolan Government since the civil war ended 15 months ago.

Officials said Unita launched an attack on Cuangar with mortars and small arms yesterday morning. Sporadic fighting continued last night, they said, but the

town was quiet this morning after Government forces and their supporters fled many of them across the border into South-West Africa (Namibia).

Officials, based in Kavango near the Angolan border, said 374 Angolans had entered South-west Africa after the fighting, including some officers of the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), as well as party supporters.

They are being held under guard just across the Cubango river from Cuangar, the officials said.—Reuter.

Mr Jaworski to investigate alleged Congress bribes

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, July 21

Mr Leon Jaworski, the former Watergate special prosecutor, will return to Washington on August 15 to investigate more alleged wrong-doings of those in high places.

He has been appointed special counsel to the House of Representatives ethics committee, which is investigating allegations that many members of Congress accepted bribes and improper favours from representatives of the Government of South Korea.

The allegations became known early this year and have not been pursued with any great diligence by the committee. Until last Friday, its chief counsel was Mr Philip Lacovara, who was forced to resign by Mr John Flynt, the

committee's chairman. Mr Lacovara had repeatedly claimed that the committee was not doing its duty.

It is curious that he should now be succeeded by Mr Jaworski, because the last time he resigned, in September, 1974, he was Mr Jaworski's deputy in the special prosecutor's office. He resigned over the pardon given to Mr Nixon and Mr Jaworski's acquiescence in that pardon.

Mr Jaworski, as chief counsel for the ethics committee, will not have the autonomy he enjoyed as Watergate special prosecutor, but he has the support of the Democratic leaders in the House, who have at last decided to exercise leadership in this matter, and he is therefore in a far stronger position than his predecessor.



Mr Neelam Sanjiva Reddy: Victory smile.

India elects a new President

Delhi, July 21.—Mr Neelam Sanjiva Reddy was today declared elected as the sixth President of India. He was unopposed.

Mr Reddy, who is 64 and comes from south India, was the agreed candidate of all main political parties. He will be sworn in on Monday.

Under the constitution, as amended last year, the President is bound to accept the advice of the Cabinet.

Mr Reddy resigned as Speaker of the Lok Sabha (Lower House of Parliament) to stand for President. Mr K. S. Hegde, a former Supreme Court judge, was today unanimously elected to succeed Mr Reddy as Speaker.

Mrs Gandhi fails to admit defeat or failure

By Richard Harris

Mrs Indira Gandhi's defeat in the Indian elections last March almost vanished from sight when she was interviewed in the Frost programme on BBC television last night. She had succeeded politically; she had not failed at all, since she did not count defeat in the elections as failure.

"A failure would be if something had gone wrong with the country," she had left the country confident and the economy strong. All that had gone wrong, one was left to infer, was that she was no longer in power.

Her view of the Opposition as a sinister force trying to bring the country down has not been changed either by their electoral success. But was there not a tendency for those in power to think any Opposition anti-patriotic, objected Mrs Gandhi, which she repeated her punishing act she certainly did not think that way.

The Opposition's behavior was against the national interest because of the economic crisis; in similar circumstances she would certainly bring in an emergency again, as one did in wartime. But this was not wartime, was it?—It was worse than war, Mrs Gandhi said.

She agreed that she was nowadays constantly under attack—but that is the sort of government there is today. She was not worried at being taken to court—the future would vindicate her. Was she free to travel? "I doubt if

they will allow me out." They thought she was a threat to them.

Pressed on public feeling against the sterilization campaign as a cause of her election defeat, Mrs Gandhi blamed officials for being over-zealous. (Unawareness of state government's behaviour and lack of control from the centre came over elsewhere in the interview). Some officials were deliberately over-zealous, trying to create unpopularity for the Government.

But why was not Mrs Gandhi more aware of public feeling?—Sometimes the centre had been and had tried to stop actions but mostly the allegations were hearsay and rumour. Nevertheless, the feeling... Yes, the propaganda had

been stepped up just polling day and if the tent was kept from I was done by officials, the Opposition who undermining her.

Criticism of her vigorously dismissed played no part in deciding was not over to be her private office. As ing orders to Cabinet and civil servants, th absolutely ridiculous, able.

Would she return tics? "If you mean i or wanting to be in she had never been, but she was lawe and a could not herself from the a future.

THINK ELECTRIC
The Electricity Council, Exeter and Hales.

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Silk Cut with tobacco substitute.

14 years of development rolled into one cigarette.



The most sensible way to use tobacco substitute is to blend it with tobacco to produce a cigarette which the Government is prepared to define as low tar.

In the 14 years since Silk Cut first saw the light of day, we've been trying to find ways to make it lower in tar.

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It's a blend of three-quarters tobacco to one-quarter tobacco substitute.

Consequently, it offers smokers a touch more flavour than conventional Silk Cut. And, as you would expect, a touch less tar.

Silk Cut with tobacco substitute, 47p and 55p.

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After the talks between Mr Beigin and President Carter on the future of the Middle East

How much longer can the Gaza Strip survive in isolation?

The prominent sign "Gaza, Palestine" on the wall of a soft drink bottling plant reminds visitors driving into the Gaza Strip from the direction of Tel Aviv that they are entering the only part of the old-British-ruled territory of Palestine that has not been formally claimed by one of the countries disputing ownership of the lands of the Bible.

After the 1948-49 war between Jews and Arabs, victorious Israel enlarged its territory by taking Western Galilee and several Arab towns elsewhere. Jordan annexed the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Egypt, however, which was left in control of the Gaza Strip, refused to incorporate it or to give citizenship to the Gazans and the scores of thousands of refugees flooding in from areas of Palestine captured by Israel. During 19 years' rule up to June, 1967 it laid emphasis on the refugee status of the Palestinians there.

How much longer "Gaza, Palestine" will survive as a separate entity may depend on the outcome of the talks which have been taking place in Washington between President Carter and Israel's new Prime Minister, Mr Menachem Begin. The plan which Mr Begin is reported to have taken with him calls for Israel to keep Gaza and eventually to integrate it into the rest of the country. Moves in this direction were started by the Labour-led governments in the past six years, during which Jewish settlements have been

established in and near the Gaza Strip and a determined attempt made to change the status of the Palestinians from refugees to ordinary residents of the Strip.

The Labour ministers were hampered by lack of agreement at the top over the future of Gaza. The former Foreign Minister, Mr David Owen, was among those who were prepared to return the area to Arab rule—preferably under an arrangement linking it with the West Bank under Jordanian sovereignty—rather than annex it and accept responsibility for the 450,000 people crowded into the Strip.

The Likud government, buoyed by nationalist and religious fervour, is untroubled by what are politically called "demographic problems" posed by the 1,100,000 Arabs of the West Bank and Gaza. It is intensifying plans for settlement throughout the area following Labour's blueprint for a string of Jewish villages and towns, and is sending off Sinai from the Strip and from Israel.

Israel's military government has a record of considerable achievement in the economic and social fields in Gaza since 1971, when the Army was forced to take drastic action to drive the gangs who were running the area inside the crowded refugee camps. In the four years since the 1967 war the degeneration of life in the Gaza camps showed the Palestinian guerrilla organisations in the area the possibility of light. Rival groups fought a civil war, murdering alleged collaborators and bombing buses carrying workers into Israel.

To restore law and order, Major-General Ariel Sharon, OC, Southern Command—now



Mr Beigin and President Carter: a plan for Gaza?

Mr Begin's Agriculture Minister and head of the Cabinet committee for Jewish settlements—drove wide roads through the camps to make policing easier. Within months the power of the gangs was crushed; after years of curfew, life began to return to normal. Farmers were able to return to the fields and citrus groves, workers were unmolested.

The military government produces impressive figures showing progress. From 1968 to 1975 agricultural production increased eightfold. There were three times as many vehicles on the roads last year as in

1967. Wages have increased considerably in 10 years (though so have prices). An Israeli sociologist claimed at a seminar that because of greater prosperity 23 per cent of the residents of the Gaza camps are now "non-refugees", in the sense that they did not rely on the rations provided by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. Many were leaving the camps to buy bigger homes elsewhere in the Strip, though were continuing to claim their refugee status.

The improved conditions in Gaza are indisputable, but the impression given that the refugees are happily settling

down to life under Israel rule is not borne out by investigations on the spot. The majority of Palestinians there, talked to in Gaza, in and out of the camps, remain adamant that their ultimate aim is to "return home" to towns and villages which have long since been absorbed by the long-term Gazans as by the refugees. Their apprehension has increased since Likud's election victory.

Protests have so far proved ineffective. Gaza's council continued to resign early this year unless the military government sanctioned new elections by March 31. Gaza has not had elections since 1946. The Israeli military rulers informed the mayor, Mr Rashid Shawa, that conditions were not regarded as suitable for elections. After some hesitation, Mr Shawa decided not to resign, though his deputy did. It was reliably reported that PLO leaders were opposed to the council's resignation on the ground that it would give the military government complete control over Gaza.

Before Israel's general election the council held an emergency meeting and passed a resolution protesting against a decision by the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee that Gaza should be declared part of Israel, but took no action to modify its stand and agree to consider the idea of Gaza's inclusion with the West Bank in a Palestinian "homeland".

There is also sharp disagreement between the Israelis and the Gazans over the number of refugees, which Israel puts at

220,000, or about 55 per cent of the Strip's population. The UNRWA figure, based on numbers entitled to free rations, is nearer 350,000.

Improved living conditions in recent years have not reconciled the Palestinians to life under occupation, which is resented as much by the long-term Gazans as by the refugees. Their apprehension has increased since Likud's election victory.

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Eric Marsden

Bernard Levin

The foundations of our own Kremlin in Whitehall

And now for our own political cruelties: will the Home Office never become house-trained? My regular readers will know that that is a rhetorical question, and the others will, I think, discover as much in the course of the reading of this column.

Mr David Levy is a Canadian citizen, born in South Africa of British-born parents: he is thus what is called, in the beastly jargon of the day, a "patril", and he has an unrestricted right of residence in the United Kingdom. (I should say, however, that his own nationality and place of birth have nothing to do with my story, and I mention them only to keep clear the lines of what is a very complicated tale.) He has served for many years as the Moscow correspondent of various western newspapers and broadcasting organizations, and it was while on one such assignment that he met a Soviet Lithuanian citizen, Nijole Tereziya; they were married in Moscow, in April, 1971. It was a second marriage for both of them.

They were divorced (I shall come to the circumstances, which form an important part of the story, in a moment) in

September, 1974, in the Soviet Union. Before that, a daughter had been born, in Canada, in July, 1973. This was the only child of the marriage.

The former Mrs Levy is clearly a woman of remarkable personality and formidable strong principles. A staunchly patriotic Lithuanian, it seems clear that she regards Lithuania as her true country, rather than the Soviet Union, and does not attempt to hide her attitude; but she refuses to emigrate from her native land (she lives in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania), though the Soviet authorities would no doubt be glad to get rid of her.

It was indeed this stand by Mrs Levy that led to the dissolution of the marriage. Mr Levy naturally wished his wife and child to live with him; she, however, would not leave her homeland permanently (she did live with him in Canada for a time, but eventually felt obliged to return), and he could not go to live in the Soviet Union, where he would have never been allowed to reside. They therefore parted and were divorced; but they remain on good terms, and the child, in particular, devoted to his daughter. And that is where the trouble begins.

Last year, Mrs Levy asked the Home Office for a residence visa for his ex-wife; he says (I have no reason to doubt

him, and nor has the Home Office) that this was not so that she could settle permanently in Britain, but so that she could go freely back and forth between Britain and Lithuania with their child. Both parents very much wanted the child to remain close to both of them, and for this to be possible, the mother will have to visit Britain with reasonable frequency. (Though Mr Levy has a journalist's accreditation to Moscow, he has no right to visit Lithuania automatically; permission is in any case never granted without a delay, and only for the capital. Besides, English-speaking surroundings are a vital part of the child's intended bi-national upbringing.)

The Home Office refused the application: they said that Mrs Levy did not fall within any of the categories of foreign nationals who may hope for such a visa; even though one of the categories is "close relatives living abroad in both distressed and isolated circumstances", which is an exact description of her, that it is positively unconvincing. But anyway, Mr and Mrs Levy accepted the refusal, and applied instead for a visitor's visa.

Mrs Levy has had such visits before, and has entered Britain on them. She has also had the equivalent permission for Canada. On all occasions she has returned to the Soviet Union when her time was up, and has never made any application, let alone attempt, to be allowed to stay in the country she was visiting; as I have explained, she feels a binding obligation to live in the country of her birth, and face all the

dangers and difficulties this entails. (This, incidentally, is exactly the same attitude as that held by Dr Sakharov. It is worth adding that the Soviet authorities are willing for Mrs Levy to travel abroad with her daughter, and they accept the child's Canadian citizenship as valid (they give her the type of exit document applicable to foreigners); they will let the mother out provided that she can show a visa from the country she wishes to visit. But the Home Office are now refusing to give Mrs Levy a temporary visa for even a brief visit.)

The Home Office make it clear, in that inimitable prose of theirs, that they are afraid that Mrs Levy will refuse to go home if she is again allowed to set foot on British soil. They have the evidence of her past strict compliance with the terms of her visas; her own declaration that she will comply no less strictly in the future; her record in such matters as her divorce from Mr Levy, with its overwhelming evidence that she feels unbreakably attached to the land of her birth. Yet the Home Office letter to Mr Levy refers to "the absence of any information to confirm that it is her intention to return to the Soviet Union".

Short of her coming here attached to a long piece of elastic, with the other end tied to one of the towers of the Kremlin, it would be difficult to think of more convincing "information to confirm that it is her intention to return". But students of Home Office techniques know that such a phrase means "we have decided that she is not going to be allowed

in, and we now regard the matter, not as one of legality or immorality, but of our own honour—proper". (A particularly noisome touch was added by the Home Office official who wrote the letter: "I am sure that you will, of course," he wrote, "submit a formal application for a United Kingdom entry visa to the British Embassy in Moscow, but on present information this would clearly stand little chance of success." Clearly, especially since the Home Office took very good care to ensure that it had no success at all, for when Mrs Levy did a curt reply to the effect that "the Secretary of State is not satisfied that you intend to leave the United Kingdom".)

Mr Levy has presented a substantial case in hardship as well as in justice. He regards with horror the prospect of his daughter being brought up exclusively in the Soviet Union; the child at present speaks only Lithuanian (of which Mr Levy speaks practically none—another reason, incidentally, why it would not be satisfactory to let the child go to Britain without her mother to be with him), apart from the undesirable of separating her from her familiar environment and her mother simultaneously; from his first marriage, which he has no access to the Soviet Union, and debarred from seeing the half-sister of whom they have become very fond; he says with some passion that it is wrong for him, his ex-wife and their child to be separated, because others have taken advantage of temporary entry permits to stay in Britain, when his

ex-wife's record in that respect is exemplary.

Now for the child to visit her father for the necessary substantial periods (a process which must entail the risk of psychological damage), the frequency of her mother's visits for a few months is clearly most desirable. Mr Levy has given all possible guarantees that Mrs Levy will not remain, or seek to remain, in Britain when she is due to leave, and has even given an assurance that if, at the end of the permitted time, the child is still not ready to be separated from her mother, he will send her home and "await the next visit of the mother and the return of the child".

He now awaits the hearing of Mrs Levy's appeal by an independent adjudicator. He awaits it, I may say, in the light thrown on the Home Office's behaviour by some remarks of our Prime Minister at the Helsinki Conference: "There is no reason why... Europeans should be allowed to travel abroad when and where they want and meet whom they want". No reason, that is, except the British Home Office. For my own part, I confess that, as one who has written scores, perhaps hundreds, of articles attacking the Soviet Union for keeping within her borders those who wish to leave, I find it intensely disagreeable to have to write about a Soviet citizen whom the Soviet authorities are treating more humanely than are those in my own country.

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Kenneth Morgan, general secretary of the NUJ, discusses the arguments about press freedom and the closed shop, page 18.

"It could be three times the size and its ingenuity would still be amazing," I marvelled.

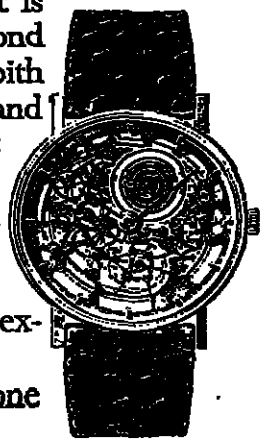
Stripped to the bare essentials. No face, even, to hide the intricate golden framework of the movement.

Carved with detail so fine even a Lilliputian would have appreciated its delicacy. Miniature wheels synchronised in silent motion, turning on ruby bearings held in tiny sockets.

Each moving part is polished first with diamond paste, then with the pith from an elder tree and finally with the softest doeskin cloth.

The skeleton watch I held in my hand cost £4,255. Which made it perhaps one of the most expensive in the world.

It was undeniably one of the most beautiful.



Audemars Piguet

Illustrated brochure and a list of appointed jewellers is available from Audemars Piguet, 71 South Hill, London EC1N 8RS.

Scots show the way through smoke of battle

Why have the Scots been blasting away at the tobacco industry cigarette for all of seven days while the rest of the country has not as much as fitted a shell into the breach? Why indeed.

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that the consumers' reported indifference to the new cigarette will eventually lapse into total rejection?

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"I travel anywhere at anyone's behest," said Lord Goodman, at a recent London conference. "I am probably the largest martinet in captivity."

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When he was caught in the act of toying, many Liberals believe that outside pressure was brought to bear on Mr Thorpe to have nothing to do with the Heath plan. Far from proposing a Lib/Con pact, Liberal MPs recall, the Liberal Party then accepted that a Labour Government would have to be formed.

Some of them, notably David Steel on June 25, 1974, continued to suggest that "in our crisis we surely need a much more broadly based government". That, of course, is exactly what Mr Heath had offered. Mr Callaghan has never offered that to Mr Steel, and there is no point in ingenious Liberals suggesting otherwise.

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Anglo-Saxon patriots this year celebrate the fourteen hundredth anniversary of the foundation of Anglo-Saxon England. The taking of Gloucester, Cirencester, and Bath by Cuthwine and Ceawlin in 577 was the first step in the capture of England, which is still ruled over by a Woden-born descendant of the House of Cerdic: she is celebrating her own Silver Jubilee this year.

To mark the occasion, the Anglo-Saxon society that calls itself the English Companions has summoned a great feast near High Wycombe on

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would have to make their case to the electorate.

Because the Labour Party has never fully made up its mind whether a mixed economy is a desirable aim itself or is a stage on the road to a tamer, alternative system it has never settled down to work at sensible rules for running the public sector. No has it decided whether the private sector can be encouraged as a major source of growth and as an essential way of maintaining competition as free choice or whether it is to be set on, taxed, regulated, padded and pulled till it drops dead.

Finally, a realigned party could shed the desperate orthodox of the left and accept that the development of democratic control over government from Party development downwards, has lagged behind the powers of the bureaucracy and that much needs to be done to restore the public faith in the notion that democratic involvement can make a difference to what governments do.

If this is what realignment means, does the Lib-Lab pact help? Mr Callaghan is astutely given the impression that to please his allies, he is stressing direct elections in the development of the party (though he would have done so anyway for old political reasons). With or without the Liberals, he would have insisted on some kind of incomes policy.

But Mr Callaghan is a very orthodox politician. He is a real Tory and is utterly opposed to any notion of realignment. What is wrong, in his view, is not the relationship with the unions but the fact that in late 1960s, the Labour Party's position of power fell into the hands of the left. If people his outlook resumed control of the party, the annual conference and the national executive, all would well.

In Mr Callaghan's eyes, a Lib-Lab pact is a device to enable him to get the Labour Party, in its existing structure, through to a general election, which he might win. If he hopes come off, inflation will recede, with an oil buttress balance of payments, a reduction in unemployment, and the Government's popularity will revive. Then he will call an election but will be beaten from the left by the voters and say "thanks, the Liberals, who I hope will continue to work with me". He will have been able to shed a lot of rubbish and political radical policies which have otherwise been hard to put over. Please vote Labour but if the Liberal is the choice, then the Liberal is the choice. I have never doubted that Mr Callaghan is a very clever man. He has done his job well. He has done his job well. He has done his job well.

Will he? On the contrary, I will say, with some truth, have done nothing I would have done had Labour had a solid majority. Support from other quarters of the party had never been in our job and a deeply conservative desire to go on fighting the battles of the 1930s and 1940s. Hence the desire to stop direct elections and resume the attack on British membership of the European Community.

Hence the present anxiety of housing policy where Labour has to be "for tenants" and "against landlords", the result being to dry up the availability of property for rent, to make mobility harder and to make regional policies over the future of council housing so hard to pursue.

But the most important single consequence of a realigned government would be that the ambivalence over the value of a mixed economy would cease and those who want to replace such an economy by a totally state-owned and controlled system

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John Mackintosh

Realignment or simply a hindrance to Labour?

Amid all the accusations and counter-accusations about this summer's political arrangements, there has been the steady, if muted, theme that the Lib-Lab pact could help to bring about a realignment in British politics. Some people have always wanted such a change. I recall, after Hugh Gaitskill had addressed a meeting in Edinburgh in the late 1950s, an earnest young student saying "if that is the authentic voice of the Labour Party, I will join". The student was David Steel and unfortunately he soon heard some other Labour voices.

Apart from all the problems of moving towards a realignment, what would the political situation look like after such a change had taken place? The object would be to produce a major left-of-centre party which would be tied neither to Marxist dogma nor to the trade unions. The TUC would have no built-in position with a block vote in the annual conference, a dominant influence in electing the national executive, the right to sponsor candidates and, perhaps, after this October's conference, a major voice in the choice of the leader of the party.

Such a radical party would expect to win the votes of many trade unionists but it would be free to press for what it saw as the national interest. Consider the difference such a party would have made to recent political history.

Without the built-in veto of the union leaders, Harold Wilson and Barbara Castle would have been able to carry their 1969 attempt to legislate on industrial relations. While Mr Heath might have wanted to amend or improve the result, the whole confrontation over the 1971 Industrial Relations Act and the current assumption that no British government can legislate on such matters without TUC approval would not have arisen.

Secondly, when Mr Heath ran into difficulties over his incomes policy in late 1973, there would have been far less temptation for Labour leaders to argue that the whole concept of regulating wages was wicked or counter-productive.

Then there might have been no 1974-75 wages explosion and no need for the Labour leaders to come slowly round to an advocacy first of a voluntary and now a "go-it-alone" (does this mean compulsory?) incomes policy. We might by now have reached a reasonable modus vivendi between the two sides and their job of looking after the members' interests and governments which set and enforced guidelines according to what the economy could afford without fuelling inflation.

A realigned left-of-centre party free of institutional ties to the unions and without the hard left in its ideological make-up could also be far more radical on many issues. One thing Marxists and union militants now have in common is a mixture of English nationalism and a deeply conservative desire (as evident at Greenwich) to go on fighting the battles of the 1930s and 1940s. Hence the desire to stop direct elections and resume the attack on British membership of the European Community.

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THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

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PREPARING FOR GENEVA

Mr Menachem Begin's visit to the United States has been a very skilfully managed affair, at least in its public aspects. Mr Begin has shown himself a much more accomplished politician and diplomatist than his predecessor, Mr Rabin, a man who never shies at the slightest spark of enthusiasm about anything, in public and therefore seldom managed to kindle any in his audience. But then, whereas Mr Rabin was essentially a competent staff officer drafted into politics by mistake, Mr Begin is a lifelong politician, an experienced parliamentarian, and a highly effective soap-box orator. Even his reputation as an extremist and diatribe nationalist has served him well on this occasion, for it enabled him to surprise the American public by displaying his considerable charm and wit, and by adopting an eminently reasonable and civilized tone.

Portrayed in the American press at the time of his election victory as a man of war, Mr Begin has emerged in Washington as a man of peace. Billed as an intransigent hardliner in contrast to the "moderate" Mr Rabin, he presented a "proposal about the framework for the peacemaking process" which Mr Rabin could probably endorse word for word, but somehow managed to make it sound much more positive and

encouraging than Mr Rabin would have done. The essence of this proposal is that the Geneva peace conference should reconvene on October 10 this year, with "no prior conditions". The participants should be Israel, Egypt, Syria, Jordan and possibly Lebanon, but in no circumstances the "organization called PLO". Palestinian Arabs can participate in the Jordanian delegation, "and we will not look for their credentials", but not any known member of the PLO. Israel will not accept the Arab demand for withdrawal to the lines of June 4, 1967, but will not dispute the Arabs' right to bring this proposal to the conference table if they so wish, any more than she expects them to accept in advance her proposal, based on a "national consensus", that Jerusalem should stay undivided as Israel's capital city. Mr Begin carefully avoided repeating his well-known phrase about "liberated territories" and "opposing the re-partition of our country". He refused to answer questions about a possible withdrawal from the West Bank, but denied ever having used the words "not an inch" in that connexion.

No doubt Mr Begin was a lot more specific than this in his private discussions, with President Carter, who announced after their meeting that "we

have laid the groundwork... and barring unforeseen difficulties that will go to Geneva conference in October". One major difficulty that can be foreseen on the basis of Mr Begin's public remarks is the problem of PLO participation, for what he said seems firmly to block off the solution hitherto hinted at by President Sadat, namely a joint Jordanian-PLO delegation. (This solution has also been rejected, but perhaps not irrevocably, by King Hussein.)

The Arabs are liable to feel that they are in a trap. If they refuse to go to Geneva without the PLO, or without more definite undertakings about Israeli withdrawal, they will leave Mr Begin an easy victory with American public opinion. But if they go to Geneva on this basis they may find themselves under intense pressure to give up their only real bargaining counter—recognition of Israel, without getting back in exchange more than a fraction of the occupied territory, let alone any recognition of Palestinian rights. Perhaps Mr Carter could make it easier for them by repeating his earlier statements about Israeli withdrawal and a Palestinian homeland. Unless Mr Begin can accept the substance of Mr Carter's views on these points there is little prospect of agreement being achieved at the Geneva conference, whenever it is held.

GREEN PAPER ON A GREAT DEBATE

It is a comment on Englishness of attitudes. Most people will agree with her that men and women with experience of employment should be given preference in selection for teacher training and that there should be more in-service training programmes which bring teachers into contact with industry and commerce. The sections of the document which will have most immediate impact are those on the curriculum and on teachers. The decision to ask every local authority to conduct a review of the curricula in its schools, along lines laid down by the DES is a sensible beginning. It is the process itself which will be as valuable as the pieces of paper which will emerge at the end. It ought to concentrate the minds wonderfully at the local level where co-ordination and rationalization needs to take place. There is also the suggestion that at a later stage the DES will devise a national framework for the curriculum based on a core of prescribed subjects—a more dubious proposition which requires a good deal more thinking through.

The section on teachers owes more to the change in the pattern of teacher recruitment than to Mr Callaghan, but of course it is central to the whole debate. The Green Paper rightly is determined to put an improve-

ment in the quality of teaching and teachers as one of the prime objectives. The changeover from a shortage to a surplus of teachers makes this more possible now than at any time since the war. What the education system now urgently needs is a sensible set of staff development plans. It is in the position of any large firm which suddenly stops expanding. If nothing is done to extend early retirement the promotion prospects of those now in their twenties and thirties will be very poor: and it will become increasingly difficult to get good people to enter the profession.

An active manpower policy is not going to be easy to achieve, given the separate employment practices of more than 100 local authorities, but the DES is now going to press the authorities and the teachers to use the opportunities now offered. It is to be hoped that the teachers' unions, who are naturally apprehensive about compulsory early retirement and the suggestion in the Green Paper that more should be done to weed out the least competent, will respond to the need to open up avenues of promotion and press for the package of early retirement, in-service training and retraining arrangements which could make this both possible and acceptable.

THE INDEXATION OF TAX ALLOWANCES

It is as welcome as it is surprising that the Government has accepted the principle that in future personal tax reliefs should be raised year by year in nominal value, in order to take account of the real effects of inflation. For only a few days ago it was being said that the authority that the Government would seek to amend this clause in the current Finance Bill, which had been inserted against its wishes.

It is true, of course, that the existing wording in the Bill gives future Chancellors a loophole through which they could escape. For the effect of Mr Lawson's further change is that the Chancellor of the day may suspend the "automatic" indexation of tax allowances and substitute some lower figure. It is none the less a major watershed in the history of British personal taxation.

For the wording in effect establishes the principle that income tax payers have a right to see the value of their personal allowances adjusted for inflation. If some future Chancellor considers the economic position to be such that it must make use of the loophole provided, he will in practice be saying that the taxpayer is not getting his rights and that the real rate of taxation is being increased by a conscious and explicit policy decision of the Government. No more will it be the case that, without changing anything, the process of inflation in fact increases the burden of taxation by the process known as "fiscal drag".

The traditional Treasury and Inland Revenue view has always resisted such a change. In part this is because of an aversion to allowing any government to step further down what is seen as the slippery slope of "indexation" for inflation of the various

aspects of economic activity as a whole. In part it has been because of the natural institutional attraction to an existing process, which increased the yield of income tax without requiring evidently unpopular political decisions. The change in attitude which the Government has now accepted seems to be based on two considerations.

The first is that many other fiscal and social problems, generally classified together as the problems of the "poverty trap", are created when the real value of personal allowances fails to keep pace with the rate of inflation. The second is that there is now more general agreement in all parties that more of the burden of total taxation should fall on indirect, as opposed to direct, taxes. Indexation of allowances at the least would ensure that inflation itself did not automatically produce a strong tendency in the other direction.

EEC balance sheet

From Dr Richard Mayne
Sir, Lord Kaldor and Professor Neild (July 16) are misinformed. The Background Report issued by the London Office of the Commission of the European Communities on June 29 certainly used the "Eurostat" trade figures, which in 1975 began to be expressed in the new "EUR" unit of account. But we were fully aware of the change; the sales published by the Community Statistical Office are of course adjusted to be compatible throughout.

Even if Lord Kaldor and Professor Neild had been right on this technical question, however, it would not have affected the essential point. On both their present and their earlier letters risk misleading your readers. RMG's own statistics, in fact, confirm the same broad position as our own. The United Kingdom's visible trade deficit with the rest of the European Community, which began in 1971—two years before Britain joined the Community—and rose sharply until 1975. It subsequently fell for the first time since British entry, and has gone on falling ever since. In the second quarter of 1977, United Kingdom deliveries to the rest of the Community rose by 11 per cent over the previous quarter, against a 43 per cent rise in the corresponding imports.

In 1976, moreover, according to the British-German Trade Council in Bonn, British sales in Germany showed an increase of 23 per cent over 1975. Nearly three-quarters of

the total consisted of manufactures, with motor vehicles in first place. Dare we suggest that things are looking up?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD MAYNE,
Head of the United Kingdom Offices,
Commission of the European Communities,
20 Kensington Palace Gardens, W8,
July 19.

Weeding out libraries

From Sir Robert Lusty
Sir, It is a great pity that such scholars as the Reverend Dr J. W. Parkes and Dr Sheridan Gilley (Letters, July 16) do not read letters before replying to them. Of course no one would advocate the disposal of books from any library without the greatest care. I certainly did not, as any reading of my letter (July 14) points out, make a mistake made it has to be borne in mind that the hapless publisher of any book is required to deposit free copies to a number of designated libraries for permanent retention. These are always available and in these days of easy "retrieval" Dr Parkes and Gilley should be able to sleep calmly and untroubled by "heavy philistinism" such as myself.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT LUSTY,
The Old Silk Mill,
Moreton-in-Marsh,
Gloucestershire,
July 18.

Discovery of penicillin

From Sir Graham Wilson
Sir, If it is not too late, I should like to refer to Lord Ritchie-Calder's letter (June 21) in which he quotes Sir Alexander Fleming as saying that, in their attempt to isolate penicillin, Ristrick and his associates failed through lack of bacteriological cooperation. This statement is not only incorrect; it is the very opposite of the truth.

Ristrick at the time was occupied in obtaining chemical products from moulds that might prove of industrial importance—an object that was divorced from the medical orientation of the School of Hygiene. To bring him more into line with the rest of the staff, Professor Topley, who was director of the Department of Bacteriology, suggested that he should take up the study of penicillin. This Ristrick did without success, not because he lacked bacteriological support which was freely available to him, but because the methods of extraction he was using were unsuited for the purpose.

I write this in fairness to the memory of the late Professor Topley who I have reason to believe foresaw the potentially therapeutic properties of penicillin. Yours faithfully,
SIR GRAHAM WILSON,
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine,
Keppel Street (Gower Street),
WC1,
July 12.

Coming to terms with Marxism

From Sir Ian Gilmore, MP for Chesham and Amersham (Conservative)

Sir, Mr Wedgwood Benn's view (Profile, July 18) that Herbert Morrison was once a Marxist would have been regarded with a great deal of scepticism by T. A. Jackson, the Marxist writer and Communist Party member, who described the young Morrison's political outlook thus: "I can recall Morrison standing in my audience with a volume of Marx's Capital under his arm. I can advance no evidence that he actually opened it, and the amount of Marx that one can soak up through the armpit is clearly not excessive."

Mr Benn also argues that it is unfair to judge Marxism by its results in practice, any more than one can condemn Christianity because of the unpleasant features of many Christian states. This is a wholly irrelevant comparison. Marxism is a political doctrine, making large claims as to the attractiveness of the society it will produce. It can only be judged, therefore, by its success in practice as a political system in practice.

Christianity, however, is not a political doctrine. Christianity has always stressed human sinfulness: it has not, as Mr Benn says, the benevolence of humankind, the inevitable success of human endeavour.

Mr Benn, by seeing Marxism as a "tradition", on all fours with others, is in a trap. By pointing out that Labour politicians have been earlier statements about Israeli withdrawal and a Palestinian homeland. Unless Mr Begin can accept the substance of Mr Carter's views on these points there is little prospect of agreement being achieved at the Geneva conference, whenever it is held.

The fact that Marxism still succeeds in appealing to Western intellectuals, and indeed that Marxist states, even in their worst periods of barbarism, have never lacked Western apologists, is a melancholy reminder of the strength of the irrational in the human mind.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
IAN GILMORE,
House of Commons,
July 20.

From Mr J. W. Saunders

Sir, It is nice to be clobbered again; some of my critics feel like old friends. I hope they have also read, from your middle two pages which I regard as an essential part of civilized pluralism, for instance, your own leaders on Eurocommunism and Rhodesia, eminently sensible and similar statements. These pieces must have caused more choking on breakfast kippers than my own humble effort.

I am of course not a Marxist, nor Communist, nor any kind of fellow-traveller. I have been known to vote Conservative (not often, I agree). Like Mr Benn, my radical roots go back, long before Marx, to British nonconformity. But Marxism has been really inter-threaded with earlier strains of radicalism, to the benefit of all, our great British country. Other countries have found Marx's ideas, and the violence, shock and hence their violence, civil wars and tyrannies.

To be precise and for the benefit of those whose letters, little they know it, prove my case: the Marxist world is not a set of cliques, some of which are secret police. What is true of Uganda or Czechoslovakia is not generally true. Oppressive régimes cannot hold for long without mass support. Hitler really had mass support, and that was the trouble which took six years to remove. Anybody who has seen even bits of the massive film *How Yukong Moved the Mountains* must realize that the overwhelming majority of Chinese peasants, who have never heard of Marx, are behind, and with it, the Chinese Communist Party. In this country, the NUJ may not be very Marxist; but what about the Scottish and Yorkshire miners, a more serious question?

My critics in general say "Marxism is resissible. We need to resist some of its more practical terms of doctrine." American resistance to Indo-Chinese Marxism was a world disaster. Mr Smith's resistance to Zimbabwe Marxism is a deepening disaster. Problems of Communist rule in Argentina. We have to discriminate and think. Total opposition to all forms of Marx-inspired radicalism leads inevitably to the longer. That's what I said. Incidentally, Dubcek was, I am sure, a far more sensible ally, was my old friend, the late (and much missed) Tony Crosland. They come in all varieties. I hope everyone heard Mr Heath's sombre recent warning on television. Unless we deal with young

unemployment soon, we risk the rise of a young generation who will decide that democracy has failed them. Some Marxists care so much about economic freedom, stopping the few exploiting the many, that they will abandon other freedoms to do it. That is the risk. Edward Heath sees it; I doubt if Margaret Thatcher does; you see it, Sir. Why don't you correspond?

Yours sincerely,
J. W. SAUNDERS,
17 Benton Road,
Middlebrough,
Cleveland,
July 20.

From Mr T. W. Taylor
Sir, As a university teacher of economics of some twenty years' standing and in the direct line of descent in the Adam Smith tradition, I was absolutely delighted to read Mrs Thatcher's letter (July 18). I had no idea that she was one of that small band who have read in their entirety both *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* and *An Enquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations* and who appreciate that each of the two is part of one whole.

Had occasion, as recently as John Kenneth Galbraith on precisely the same point in a letter to *The Listener*, which the editor kindly printed in the issue of January 27, 1977.

In the first of his series, *The Age of Uncertainty*, Galbraith, I think, completely wrong—inexcusable for a Scots economist even with a North American accent.

More power to Mrs Thatcher's academic elbow. Yours faithfully,
T. W. TAYLOR,
Department of Applied Economics,
University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology,
King Edward VII Avenue,
Cardiff,
July 18.

From Mr S. D. Lancashire

Sir, Readers of Mrs Thatcher's letter (July 18) should also read Mrs Thatcher's letter (July 18) of being misled by second-hand versions, not least from Mrs Thatcher.

In Mrs Thatcher's letter will find, it is true, the view that religion, politics, ethics, etc. are conditioned by economic factors, a view that few people would contest. However, they will not find an amoral, callous, economic determinism, but rather a profound concern for the dignity and value of the individual and the desire to see a society where individual potential can be realized as fully as possible.

Mrs Thatcher cries from the pulpit "Shall not Marxism be known by its fruits?" If this is so then ought not other social philosophies to be assessed in the same way? But this would lead us to condemn Mrs Thatcher's Christian philosophy for the reasons that she condemns Marxism; it has led visibly to cruelty, misery, callousness, selfishness, new crying inequalities; it has extended man's inhumanity to man into new fields and led to pitilessness.

In fact, crimes against humanity can be and have been committed under the banner of every social philosophy. What a social philosophy advocates and what is done in its name are two different things which ought not to be confused, even when it is politically expedient. But then reason and politics have never walked hand in hand, have they?

Yours sincerely,
S. D. LANCASHIRE,
33 Brimley Street,
Newcastle,
Staffordshire,
July 18.

From Mr R. J. Barney

Sir, Would the Conservative Party please produce their next election manifesto with Margaret Thatcher's letter to *The Times* (July 18).

Would they also, in good faith, pledge themselves publicly to the spirit and practical implications of that text.

Then perhaps, those of us who have grave reservations about voting for a party with at least a partial image of selfishness and intolerance would find ourselves able to vote for a political party that embodied strength and firmness of purpose without wishy-washy justice and generosity.

If Mrs Thatcher's letter reveals her true character, both personal and political, then she is no right-wing Tory, she is a Christian democrat. Yours faithfully,
R. J. BARNEY,
Heath Farm,
Hockering,
Norfolk,
July 18.

Bicycles by rail

From the Chief Passenger Manager, British Railways Board

Sir, I am happy to reassure Lord Horder (Letters, July 16) that the response to our offer of free rail transport for accompanied bicycles has proved to be far from "limited", and that the 13,000 applicants who ordered 45,000 free cycle tickets in five weeks do not appear to have found the scheme "cumbersome".

Since July 8 we have, indeed, done what Lord Horder has suggested we should. To take advantage of our offer, a cyclist need only purchase a ticket for his or her own journey, and wheel their bicycle on to a train without a cycle ticket or advance application. This is, of course, subject to accommodation being available for the cycle in the guard's van, and one or two simple conditions mainly involving the carrying of the bicycle on a limited to accommodate bicycles.

The offer continues until September 30, by which time we will have had opportunity to decide whether to continue the scheme. We need to gain as much information as possible to assess the full commercial benefit to British Rail.

Without those application forms we would have had no way of knowing that many of the cyclists taking their bicycles free of charge by train would not have made such long journeys in the absence of the offer. We have now gained enough detail from the forms, and they are no longer needed.

We are interested to note the comments sent to us by many cyclists who previously had not been on a train in years. It is encouraging to read their complimentary remarks about the helpfulness and courtesy of our staff on trains and at stations. Yours faithfully,
P. A. KEEN,
Chief Passenger Manager,
British Railways Board,
222 Marylebone Road, NW1,
July 18.

Mr Healey's remarks

From Mrs Hilary Phillips
Sir, "Can have a lot of fun with a woman who is not very innocent" indeed! Mr Denis Healey (July 18) is not a young Victorian card and the use of such jocular dismissive phrases now shows a great lack of sensitivity, political and otherwise.

HILARY PHILLIPS,
149 Silverdale, SE26,
July 19.

Blasphemy as a crime

From Mr Oliver Stallybrass

Sir, Like Mr Bratby, I have been asked to assist in publishing a reprint of James Kirkup's poem. Like him, I find it repellent—and a sad falling-off for the author of "A Correct Compendium", though perhaps it may still pass as a poem rather than a "poem". Unlike him, and unlike most of your correspondents, I find the issues which it raises far from simple, though I hope my perplexity may at least preserve me from the wilder flights of rhetoric on the one side and the other. On the other side is the ultimate obscenity (to cite an absurdity that has already been pilloried), on the other Mr Bratby's comparison between the publication of this poem in *Homosexual News* and "entering a church and defecating upon the altar".

The latter action is, of course, one which could only be performed by somebody deliberately seeking to outrage the public as well as the feelings of practising Christians; and for worshippers at any church so desecrated the outrage would be inescapable. Kirkup's poem, however, was not published in the *Church Times*, and what it seeks to do is not, clearly, to baffle Christianity, but to sanctify a particular type of sexual experience by a particular, later expression of Christianity. The attempt may be both impudent and a trifle pathetic, and the result may be highly distasteful to many—but not, surely, to those who normally read the *Church Times*. And even they could have stopped reading this poem if their hackles were starting to rise.

One thing is clear to me: the folly and counter-productive nature of the action instigated by Mrs Whitehouse and her associates, whether concerned with blasphemy or obscenity, it would be interesting, and relevant, to know how she came upon this poem. Does history of homosexual cause her to come each issue of *Homosexual News* for objectionable matter?

Or was some genuine reader of this periodical genuinely outraged, did this reader turn to her for help, and with this reader now gone up and be counted? What is certain is that the legal action has caused many additional people to suffer distress by reading the poem, whereas as jurymen, or through a serious and credible desire to base their personal judgment on knowledge rather than guesswork, or from mere idle curiosity, or because they have been asked to sponsor a reprint.

If I hesitate over such sponsorship it is mainly because I do not yet know what publication is to entail. If the intention is, *inter alia*, to mail copies of the poem to those whom it is certain or likely to outrage, or otherwise to broadcast copies to people's faces, I cannot support it. It merely to make it known that copies are available to those (in my view misguided) people who ask for them, I probably shall—though I am still open to dissuasion by calm and well-reasoned argument.

One last word, on what is perhaps not the side-issue that it may at first sight appear. My reason for twice referring to *Homosexual News*, rather than to the actual title *Gay News*, is that "homosexual" is a neutral and unobjectionable term, whereas to many heterosexuals the implication that they are a dismal, lugubrious lot is as gratuitously offensive as to homosexuals, is the designation "queer".

Yours faithfully,
OLIVER STALLYBRASS,
King's College,
Cambridge,
July 20.

From Mr Stephen Spender

Sir, The remark quoted in your columns by Mrs Whitehouse "rejoicing" that "this material" (her way of referring to a poem by the distinguished poet James Kirkup) has been found blasphemous by the public in this country is laughable. The jury has received a good deal of comment. Perhaps I may add what seems to me the important point that a poem is a literary form in which a poet expresses the transformation, within that inner life which is his individual imagination, of those experiences which make up for him the external and public world.

The significance of the poem lies in the realization of images and ideas in language which are the experience of the poet as an individual writing for readers who are individuals: not in what Mrs Whitehouse and a jury may consider the social effect of the imagery and thought if it is the danger of the poem and considers its recommendations for human behaviour. But Mrs Whitehouse is of course not the first to persecute poets for their parabolic interpretations of experience: the persecution of Baudelaire's *Flowers of Evil*. The wholly traditional religious mystical concept of Christ as the bridegroom of the soul (male or female) has, however, scarcely the publicly official view of Christ within the individual imagination sexual connotations—as is apparent in thousands of paintings of the Crucifixion: the Son of Man naked except for the loincloth. Baudelaire's "blasphemously" described as "le

linge dont Jesus voile ses nudités." From the poetry of Christian mystics like St John of the Cross until modern times there is a long line of poetic writings in which the erotic motive is fused with the spiritual (or vice versa).

In a religious age the religious impulse may have ascendancy over the erotic, whereas in the secular pagan (as T. S. Eliot called it) modern one the erotic may have ascendancy over the spiritual, for the reason that love can only be conceived of in terms of criticism and the idea of a sexless Christ becomes that of a love which is impotent. The great catholic poet Paul Claudel regarded the violent, carnally blasphemous and obscene anti-catholic poetry of Rimbaud as evidence of the poet having a spiritual and religious inner life closer to the catholic religion than materialism, progressivism, modern society in which the values of religion are replaced by the conventions of respectability.

Eliot pointed out in an essay on Baudelaire that today the blasphemous may be closer to the religious than the conventional and pious. This judgment may seem borne out by D. H. Lawrence's fable "The Man Who Died" in which Jesus is described as resurrected in the body to make love to a priestess of the cult of Isis. Lawrence's attempt is to vitalize Christ within the context of the most vivid modern imagination: this means transforming the Christ figure into terms of our time in which sex is recognized as a force within individual life which remains resistant to the materialist values of society.

In his poem Mr Kirkup is perhaps imagining within the context of the pagan world a Christ who corresponds to the man who sanctified his own contemporaries by frequenting "publicans and sinners". Legistically Mr Kirkup's poem may be blasphemous, but in any wider religious sense to interpret it so shows great arrogance, as though Mrs Whitehouse considered herself in the confidence of God. In her campaign for censorship Mrs Whitehouse has taken a very serious step in persecuting a poet, publishing a poem, however offensive the poem may seem to readers who read it only to be offended. Before she goes round congratulating herself on the public's decision, she should consider whether she herself is not blaspheming against the human spirit.

Yours, etc,
STEPHEN SPENDER,
Mas de St Jerome,
13520 Mauseane Les Aillipies,
France,
July 16.

From Mr John Osborne

Sir, I was engaged the other day in a friendly correspondence about the merits of George Bernard Shaw as a dramatist. A lot of good natured banter ensued. Particularly after I had given some chapter and verse to make a point about Shaw's total lack of poetry as a writer. I cited Marchbanks, the poet in *Camdia*. I wrote:

"I had the misery of once playing Marchbanks in this ineffectual feeble piece. This is Shaw's idea of a 'poet' (having no poetry in him at all). The poet, a ghastly little cissy, is bullied interminably by the idiot, muscular Christian Socialist who, in turn, is mothered by an insufferably patronizing bully of a woman."

Now I read part of Professor Kirkup's statement. I heard the gaily, gory details of the Crucifixion for the first time at Sunday School at the age of five. I was so overcome by revulsion and fright that I fainted with the shock of those gruesome, violent images. When I heard of the fires of hell and the torments of the damned, my horror expressed itself in outbursts of uncontrollable giggles, my knees shook and I wet the floor. What perfect casting Professor Kirkup would have made for Shaw's ghastly little cissy, posturing as a ghastly little cissy. Yours very truly,
JOHN OSBORNE,
Christmas Place,
Marsh Green, near Edenbridge,
Kent,
July 18.

From Mr R. D. Holder and Mr K. L. Dorrington

Sir, *Gay News* and its editor have found guilty of blasphemous libel. It seems to us therefore inescapable that *Socialist Worker* is in clear breach of the law in subsequently publishing (July 16) the two stanzas of "The Love that Dares to Speak its Name", which according to this newspaper, were found most objectionable by Mrs Whitehouse.

It is an important principle of our national life that the rule of law must prevail. How, therefore, can this blatant further dissemination of material found in court to be blasphemous continue without protest?

Yours faithfully,
R. D. HOLDER,
Christ Church,
K. L. DORRINGTON,
Lecturer, Hertford College,
Oxford,
July 20.

Film portrayal of Arnhem

From Professor Lipmann Kessel

Sir, Were this correspondence confined only to "those who were there" it would still appear to have no end in sight. My only reason for adding to the file is the medical aura which the argument has now taken, pushed to quite extraordinary limits by Sir Alexander Hood (July 12) who seems to be calling for the imposition of a one and all concerned with the making of the film. This is such a travesty of the truth that it cannot remain unchallenged.

Very many—if not the majority—of causes of one time or another passed through St Elizabeth Hospital at Arnhem where I was privileged to serve during and after the battle. Having now seen the film twice, I am convinced that although some details may be altered, the spirit of the medical services in the British 1st AVE Div was accurately portrayed. To have, for example, a Dutch civilian doctor in Col Warrack in the

appeal for a casualty truce, may not be historically accurate, but it does convey in a very precise and dramatically accurate manner the important close liaison which existed between Dutch civilians and Army medical personnel in the care of the wounded. Yours faithfully,
LIPMANN KESSEL,
The Institute of Orthopaedics,
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital,
224 Gr Portland Street, W1,
July 20.

Mr Packer's matches

From Dr E. H. Kronheimer
Sir, Will you please refrain from dignifying Mr Kerry Packer's commercial adventures through your continued description of his proposed activity as "cricket"? Yours faithfully,
ERWIN KRONHEIMER,
Flat C,
10 Regents Park Road, NW1,
July 20.

Is there anything to be said for our licensing hours?

Laws restricting the hours during which pubs could open were introduced during the 1914 war.

The alleged purpose was to stop highly paid munitions workers loafing around in pubs all day, and to get them back to making shells.

With one or two modifications introduced during 1963, those laws are still with us.

Obviously they must suit at least some of us very well.

The National Association of Licensed House Managers, for example, feels that the current permitted hours are quite enough.

They feel that their members work long hours and would not be prepared to work longer.

In fact, they are in favour of pubs closing one day a week to give the manager a break.

If the opening hours were increased it would mean more than one shift, and this would add greatly to the complexity and cost of running a pub.

Which in turn would have to mean dearer beer.

Another organization, the National Union of Licensed Victuallers, which represents the tenants who rent pubs from the breweries, agrees that the hours are long enough, but would like to see more flexibility.

They would like to be able to choose their own hours to suit the neighbourhood in which they operate.

Both groups want to retain the afternoon shut-down because they say it gives them a chance to clean up and get ready for the evening trade.

They also agree that some pubs are kept open unnecessarily because the breweries fear that the licensing authority will decide that a pub which closes isn't needed and will withdraw its licence.

Which is true.

We would prefer not to have this possibility hovering over us.

It does us no good to have one of our pubs open consuming heat and light if there are no customers.

The police aren't too keen on flexible opening hours because it would make their job of enforcing closing time that much more difficult.

Residents' associations on the whole resist pubs being open any later than they are at present because of the noise.

Two groups seem totally opposed to the law as it stands. These are the tourist and hotel trade who would like to see all restrictions on the sale of alcoholic drinks removed.

And the temperance and prohibitionist lobby which would like to see all pubs closed never to re-open.

The only people whose views we don't know with any certainty are the people who matter most, but don't have an organization or pressure group to speak for them.

Namely, pub customers.

We suspect that some have the opening times programmed into their skulls and are incapable of developing a thirst on a Sunday afternoon. Or of being taken by surprise by the calling of time.

But how about you?

If you have a view on the subject we'd like to hear it.

Next time somebody tells us what our customers want, it could be helpful if we had a little fact on our side.



We'd like to have your opinion.

Would you like pubs to be allowed to open any time of the day or night? Yes ☐ No ☐

Would you like pubs to be able to open when they like between 10 am and midnight? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you think the afternoon shut-down is a good thing? Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you find the present hours... Too short ☐ Too long ☐ Just right ☐

How about Sunday hours? Too short ☐ Too long ☐ Just right ☐

Do you think that the opening hours of individual pubs should be determined according to local needs and preferences? Yes ☐ No ☐

Are you a politician? Yes ☐ No ☐

Have you any thoughts on the subject?

If so we would like to hear from you. Please write to:

F. E. Norris, Retail Director, Whitbread & Co. Ltd. (CR),

The Brewery, Chiswell Street, London EC1Y 4SD.

Your Name _____

Address _____

WHITBREAD & CO LTD

This advertisement caused 5,200 people to write to us. Here's what we're going to do.

Four thousand people took the trouble to complete and send in the questionnaire from the advertisement. And twelve hundred went so far as to write us letters.

We've never run an advert that provoked such a colossal response.

Clearly a lot of people are pretty worked up about our licensing hours. For example, one correspondent said, "I am convinced that relaxing the hours of opening would have the effect of lessening the amount of drunkenness." Another felt even more strongly, "The licensing laws in this country are appalling and more fitting to the early part of this century."

In fact, there was fairly general agreement that the current hours are too inflexible.

And many of our correspondents think licensees should be allowed to set their own opening and closing times.

If you would like to have more detailed information about the response to the advertisement drop us a line at the address below and we will send you a leaflet on the subject.

So far so good.

But can we be sure that the views expressed by these people accurately reflect those of people in the country as a whole?

The answer is no, we can't be sure.

So we are going to finance a national survey. It will be conducted by an independent research

company, and it will be large enough to provide statistically reliable results.

All together it will probably take about six months to complete.

Then we will be able to say we know how our customers feel about the licensing laws.

Right now we can't say that with any certainty.

We know how licensees feel because their views were solicited fairly recently by the Erroll Committee.

But our customers don't have an articulate lobby.

So when the results of the survey are in, if they show that there's a case for changing the law we will make the findings available to everybody concerned. Members of Parliament because they finally have to endorse any change in the law. The Judiciary and the Police because they have to enforce the law. And the National Union of Licensed Victuallers and the National Association of Licensed House Managers because they have to operate within the law.

If you would like the leaflet that gives further details of the response to our first advertisement, the address to write to is Whitbread & Co. Ltd.,

Department LL2, The Brewery,

Chiswell Street,

London, EC1Y 4SD.



WHITBREAD & CO. LTD.

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Why the arguments about press freedom and closed shops should move forward

Before opening *The Times* on July 11 and being faced with Mr. Richard Storey's article, I would have guessed that there were not still 3,000 words to be written on "Why press freedom would be threatened by a journalists' closed shop" after all the arguments that have, perhaps to the bafflement of the public, in the Lords and Commons, in newspapers and on the air since the summer of 1974.

After reading his piece, I am sorry to say that I think my guess was right: sorry, because it could be thought a childish response to his complimentary reference to wisdom and resolution. But it is the duty of wisdom to refute error and try to maintain balance and one must try to be resolute in that task to the last.

Mr. Storey was receding again the familiar arguments and fears that have been put forward so many times, often—but not always—by newspaper proprietors or those close to them, since the 1974 summer evening when a voting dispute caused by Mr. Harold Lever dining outside the Palace of Westminster and being inadvertently "nodded through" a Commons' division gave a second chance for the mobilization of a powerful newspaper and parliamentary lobby against the legitimization of the closed shop.

Hardly any of the fears stemming from the claim that press freedom is incompatible with the freedom of journalists' trades unions to seek either closed shops or 100 per cent membership arrangements were encountered by the National Union of Journalists until the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill was tabled after the Lever meal.

Little or nothing had been made of those fears earlier, in the year when the Trade Union and Labour Relations Bill itself was debated and the argument had not been mounted with any force before the passage of the Industrial Relations Act in 1971.

Yet before 1971 the NUJ's standing policy had been for many years to support its chapels which sought 100 per cent post-entry membership arrangements to encourage its chapels to press for them.

In those days industrial relations were generally less codified than they are now—I am by no means convinced they are the better for the change—and there were many newspaper offices where without formal written agreement, it was understood that all newcomers to the papers' staff would be expected to join the NUJ.

There was a compelling practical and humane reason for the union and its chapels not seeking to apply compulsion to join to those journalists already on a particular staff when the majority of its members adopted a policy of 100 per cent membership.

Not all the union's chapels followed the policy of seeking 100 per cent membership, no more than all of them do now, but whether they did or did not at no time did the union use its power to seek 100 per cent membership houses, or its power from having established them, to hamper or diminish press freedom.

Since the debate began in 1974, the NUJ has repeated many times its pledge that it will not do so in the future. It would be surprising had it not been prepared to give that pledge. The record of the NUJ in opposing censorship and resisting pressure on the press to close home and abroad whether imposed on newspapers from without or from within, has been a good one.

It has also been an even-handed one, politically and internationally: condemning censorship, repression of journalistic freedom and the harassment of journalists by regimes of the right and the left, in the East and the West, and in both parts of Africa. (Incidentally it has been a new experience for the NUJ in the past few months to have to protest for the first time at Britain's deportation of journalists, though it had got used to making those protests to the Soviet Union, Cuba, Rhodesia, South Africa, Chile and Cuba.)

So far as internal pressures on the press go, the NUJ's attitude has been consistent—that it would be just as wrong for editors to be under compulsion or pressure to act against their judgment by trade unions, including the NUJ, as it would be for them to be under that pressure from proprietors, advertisers, or commercial interests.

Of the three examples offered by Mr. Storey of members of production unions allegedly using their power to suppress or distort news, only



Mr. Denis MacShane, vice-president of the NUJ, being escorted during the Darlington dispute.

one touched fairly directly on the journalists and the NUJ. It is indeed, and far more constructive than to continue arguments of last year and the year before. At a very early stage of the arguments—December 1974—that unless some special safeguards were devised press freedom would be at risk when TULRA was enacted, the union invited editors and proprietors to subscribe with it to a declaration of press freedom and fairness, a commitment to abstain from improper pressure and a commitment to resist it when it was applied by others from without or within.

It was largely from this proposal that Mr. Alastair Betherington's suggestions stemmed, then Lord Houghton's suggested code of practice, and eventually the requirement of the Act itself that editors, proprietors and journalists should try to devise a charter of their own. The talks under Lord Pearce followed. Some tried: some did not. The variety and freedom of the British press was displayed at its most impressive: the editor of *The Guardian* chose to try: the editor of *The Times* chose not to.

Some tried harder than others, but the combined efforts were not sufficient, and Mr. Albert Booth—his Minister of State, Mr. Harold Walker, on his behalf—was left with the task of incorporating the charter into the new law. He agreed and drafted his own, after consultation, to cover the central points on which we could not agree.

Might it not be well for all the parties now to join the House of Commons, the House of Lords, the Donovan Royal Commission and the McGregor Royal Commission and recognize that we have passed beyond 1974, 1975 and 1976: that these bodies have accepted that closed shops can exist, that those concerned with the police exist in newspapers, and that the task now is to devise and agree safeguards which make compatible the existence of post-entry 100 per cent membership houses in newspaper editorial departments and a free press?

There has been some recognition of this. The Royal Commission's six central immediate recommendations should, and I believe will, be acceptable to the vast majority of members of the NUJ:

(a) Freedom of a journalist to act, write and speak in accordance with conscience without being inhibited by the threat of expulsion or other disciplinary action by his union or his employer.

(b) Freedom for an editor of a newspaper, news agency or periodical to accept or reject any contribution whether or not the contributor is a professional journalist or a member of a union, as long as this freedom is not abused.

(c) Freedom for an editor to join or not to join any union and, if a member of a union, to take part or not to take part in any industrial action called for by the union.

(d) Protection of an editor's right to accept or reject any contribution notwithstanding the views of his proprietor, the management of his company, union chapel or any advertiser.

(e) Proper appeal procedures for complaints of unfair or arbitrary expulsion or exclusion from trade union membership.

(f) Assurance that the practices of publishers and of the NUJ

advantages which accompany it" (my italics).

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(e) Proper appeal procedures for complaints of unfair or arbitrary expulsion or exclusion from trade union membership.

(f) Assurance that the practices of publishers and of the NUJ

and IOJ in matters affecting the freedom of journalists will conform with the spirit and provisions of the charter.

Last week the NUJ's president, the chairman of the TUC's Printing Industries Committee and myself put them forward as the basis for settling the current dispute with Westminster Press at Darlington. They are not so different from the set of homespun safeguards agreed last month between the NUJ and a London suburban newspaper group—the *Stratford Express*—on the introduction of a 100 per cent membership agreement covering its editorial department.

The move towards individual agreements of this type carries with it (as a charter on this basis would) the recognition that the sign of the union members like those at Darlington is not to influence, let alone control, the contents or policies of their newspapers or to restrict general access to them but justifiably to increase their wage bargaining power.

Over the years, as Mr. Storey recognizes, the gap between the views of provincial journalists and their colleagues in other newspapers has widened. Part of the explanation is that other newspaper unions bargain from the strength of a trade union or closed shop. Currently in Darlington and Durham journalists—some of them I do not doubt with some personal regret—have decided like many elsewhere that to achieve the same industrial ends they need to employ the same industrial means.

I do not think the answer lies, I do not think it can lie in 1977, in inviting journalists to relinquish any right to, or hope of, obtaining a post-entry 100 per cent membership in exchange for patently, even if well intentioned, bestowed wage reviews, any more than such a promise could "buy off" the trade union aspirations and intentions of first division journalists. (Incidentally, what appalling possibilities of danger and the imposition of political views that thought provokes.)

Mr. Storey's article was long or fears but short on facts. It is true that some five years ago—not a year or two ago—a journalist MP was accused of acting contrary to the rules of the union by the way he cast his vote in the Commons. He was accused by another individual member of the union, not by his branch. His branch had a duty to operate the rules of the union and to inquire into the complaint but it was so clearly a bizarre and improper interference with an MP's duties that I, as soon as the matter came to union notice above branch level, ordered the proceedings to be abandoned. The case that the member concerned and to the Speaker.

Had he not been an MP and, therefore, able to claim parliamentary privilege, the union could have muzzled him," wrote Mr. Storey. As the way he cast his vote in the Commons, it is a bit difficult to see how it could have arisen had he not been an MP.

Mr. Storey's second example was that journalists "on a number of newspapers have recently refused to work when those papers contained an advertisement for right-wing organizations". The case that most readily springs to mind is of a north London newspaper where individual journalists—not in their capacity of

members of the NUJ—claimed a conscientious objection to working on an issue which carried an advertisement for a National Front march which the journalists concerned claimed was likely to result in a breach of the peace.

This is an issue which would pose a difficult problem for many people—as the Press Council—in giving a judgment which upheld the journalists' right to act as they did but pointed the need to balance conflicting freedoms—acknowledged.

I incline to the "common carrier" theory of the journalists' role, but there are very many people who do not and to whom assisting in producing a newspaper which contains an advertisement for Fascism—or conceivably for Trotskyism—either—would be beyond the bounds of tolerance.

What is beyond the bounds of logic is Mr. Storey's deduction that if there were a universal closed shop the NUJ would censor any political, religious or other content of which it disapproved. Who the "it" is is interesting: presumably not, say the majority of voters who backed Mr. Levin's first and second fancies.

One of the difficulties about operating an effective religious and political censorship by the NUJ is getting the members employed on the *Daily Telegraph* and *Socialist Worker*, the *Methodist Recorder* and the *Catholic Herald* to agree on what should be censored.

Of Mr. Storey's third example it perhaps need only be confessed that people should not be surprised that a trade union of journalists affiliated to, contributing to, and taking part in the work of the Trades Union Congress should urge that body to give preference to its members over those journalists whose choice not to join an affiliated union.

The remaining quarter of reasons for forbidding display of a slightly surprising confusion as to whose language is usually as precise as Mr. Storey's—between motions and resolutions. The four were not resolutions: they were motions. The NUJ annual delegate meeting did not decide to ban access to the media by the National Front; did not decide that no member of the National Front should be allowed to be a member of the NUJ; did not ban all advertising from South Africa; and did not black out, or come to that, any—reports from the Scotland Chile football match.

On the contrary, ADM rejected all these suggestions. It therefore seems a little harsh to the union to be chided almost as severely as it has been access to the media by the National Front. The significance of these four incursions on freedom was like that of the barking of the dog in the night—they did not take place.

I should be very sad indeed if I thought that any—reporter not as the Royal Commission says, a conflict between truth and error but an attempt to balance valid but competing claims—had to continue on this level. I do not think it is: I do not think it will. In the balancing, we are now concerned with safeguards to allow the conflict. The dogs—different dogs, of course—may still be barking but the caravan has moved on.

Kenneth Morgan
The author is general secretary of the NUJ.

elongated and expensive kind come from Africa and cost more than 30p each. The more squat, dark and rough-skinned type come from the United States and cost between 22p and 28p each.

English strawberries are now approaching the end of a much better season than that of 1976. Although the best cost at least 40p a pound in punnets and 35p loose, those which are of equal flavour and texture but less consistent in size cost 32p. Those which are almost overripe are sold occasionally for 15p to 20p a pound.

Hugh Clayton

Babycham: confusion not proved

H. P. Bulmer Ltd & Another v J. Bollinger SA and Others

Before Lord Justice Buckley, Lord Justice Goff and Lord Justice Waller

Judgments delivered July 20

By a majority, the Court of Appeal ordered that injunctive restraining Showers Ltd from using the expression "champagne perry" on their product "Babycham" be lifted on the ground that there was no reliable evidence of any confusion or real likelihood of confusion between Babycham and champagne, causing damage or the likelihood of damage to champagne producers, because for 25 years Babycham had been advertised on a large scale and millions of bottles of it sold without evidence of damage to the producers.

Showers, the second plaintiffs, were appealing against the orders Mr. Justice Waller (1976) RPC 37 granted to the defendants, J. A. Bollinger SA and Champagne Lanson Pere et Fils, sons of the late J. Lanson, on behalf of and on behalf of all persons who produce wine in the Champagne district of France and who ship such wine to England and Wales, on their commercial, restraining Showers from using in the course of trade the expression "champagne perry" or the word "champagne" in any manner leading to confusion or deception. The first plaintiffs, J. A. Bollinger SA, did not appeal.

Mr. David Hirst, QC, Mr. William Auld, QC, and Mr. Simon Thorpe, QC, appeared for the first plaintiffs. Mr. Charles Sparrow, QC, and Mr. Robin Jacob for the second plaintiffs. Mr. Justice Waller said that since 1950 Showers had manufactured and sold a high grade perry under the brand name "Babycham Champagne Perry". The issue was whether Showers were entitled to have Showers' name used in the course of trade on their product and champagne so that some of the glamour of champagne might be transferred to their product.

The effect of the use of the expression "champagne perry" was more difficult. "Genuine" was of little significance, and "champagne perry" would be clear to a person of fairly mean intelligence as meaning a commodity called "perry", whatever that might be, of a quality inferior to that of the advertised use of the word "champagne". In that respect, the description differed essentially from the description of champagne which clearly indicated a commodity called "champagne" of an origin indicated by the adjective "champagne".

Mr. Justice Waller said that Showers sought to present their product as being in the nature of a sparkling wine, and the judge said that their liability to produce an association between their product and champagne so that some of the glamour of champagne might be transferred to their product would not dissuade them from that, but the attraction by Showers to their product of some of the glamour of champagne would be of itself amounting to passing-off.

In the absence of any reliable evidence of deception, the judge was justified in inferring that a substantial portion of the public had been or were likely to be misled into believing that Babycham was what he called a "champagne product".

Mr. Sparrow contended that in any case in which one man used a name or a trade mark which was distinctive of another man's goods or business, a presumption arose that confusion between the two would be likely to occur and that the burden lay on Showers to displace the presumption and not on Bollinger to prove affirmatively that confusion had taken place. He relied on *Ford v Foster* (1872) 7 Ch App 611, 623 and *Burgess v Burgess* (3 De Gex M & G, 696, 49 App Rep 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

ducts and champagne and that the use of the expression was likely to lead to confusion.

His Lordship reviewed the evidence and concluded that there was no direct evidence of confusion or deception. The evidence of Mr. Martin, managing director of an off-licence which his Lordship did not regard as satisfactory, was not sufficient to hold on the evidence that Showers strove for an association between Babycham and champagne depended mainly, if not entirely, upon the evidence of the advertising and marketing techniques.

The advertising was based on four features: (1) the name Babycham to which Bollinger took no exception; (2) the expression "champagne perry"; (3) the encouragement of a style of saucer glass conventionally used for serving champagne for service to Babycham; and (4) the use of a mark of a stylized picture of a little chamois. Features (1), (3) and (4) taken separately or together did not justify the judge's findings.

The effect of the use of the expression "champagne perry" was more difficult. "Genuine" was of little significance, and "champagne perry" would be clear to a person of fairly mean intelligence as meaning a commodity called "perry", whatever that might be, of a quality inferior to that of the advertised use of the word "champagne". In that respect, the description differed essentially from the description of champagne which clearly indicated a commodity called "champagne" of an origin indicated by the adjective "champagne".

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UK winning bigger share of North Sea contracts

British companies are winning a bigger proportion of work in the North Sea oil industry, according to government figures issued yesterday.

They show that 57 per cent of last year's offshore business in the British sector went to British companies, compared with 52 per cent in 1975. The total value of orders placed by oil companies was £1,041m, of which Britain got £591m.

The share of business in capital goods rose from 63 per cent in 1975 to 70 per cent last year, and in the provision of services from 41 per cent to 45 per cent.

The figures are given in a report published by the Offshore Supplies Office of the Department of Energy. It was compiled from confidential quarterly returns given by companies operating in the North Sea to help the Government ensure that British concerns are given an opportunity to compete for orders.

It says that the absence of new orders for offshore production platforms continued to have a significant impact on the size of the capital goods market, which fell by £170m from the 1975 figure of £529m. The value of orders for services, at £595m, represented more than half the total orders placed. The share of design and consultancy work rose to 82 per cent (£87m) from 60 per cent (£51m) in the previous year.

Some of the more encouraging developments are not reflected in the figures, says the report. For example, the production of drilling rigs owned by United Kingdom companies had increased.

British-owned mobile drilling rigs are operating not only in United Kingdom waters but overseas, despite the worldwide recession in the offshore drilling market.

Underwater engineering and maintenance are becoming increasingly important and United Kingdom companies are developing their capability in this sector of the market, the report adds.

Textiles trade chairman gives warning of 'potential disaster' if imports not curbed

By Peter Hill

Unless the rising tide of imports is stemmed, Britain's economy will be gravely damaged, while the textile industry itself will be faced with a threat of potentially disastrous dimensions.

That was the grim warning issued yesterday by Dr Brian Smith, chairman of ICI Fibres and president of the British Textiles Confederation. He said that if imports continued to surge at present rates, some sectors of the United Kingdom textile industry would be destroyed within a relatively few years.

If that were allowed to happen, he continued, the rest of the textile sector would be in serious danger, other industries would be affected directly, some of them seriously, and the entire British economy would be gravely damaged.

More than £7,000m would be added to the wrong side of the

country's balance of payments, and the jobs of more than 800,000 workers in the textile and clothing industries would be at risk.

Speaking at a press conference to launch a new booklet outlining the threat to domestic producers posed by rising imports—in some sectors these account for 70 per cent of the total market—Dr Smith referred to the negotiations now taking place in Geneva on the future of the Gatt Multi Fibres Arrangement, introduced four years ago.

He urged all those involved in the negotiations to "stand firm" in the discussions on the mandate which had been decided by the EEC. The present agreement, expiring at the end of this year, unless agreed, is reached for a new MFA, individual governments are expected to resort to unilateral defensive action to restrict imports.

The United Kingdom textile industry, he stressed, was not fighting for. It was not a lame duck area. Investment, productivity and innovation were all of a high level. The industry was not afraid of normal competition from the developed countries of western Europe, the United States and Japan, but the threat came from the low wage countries and from others which indulged in unfair trading practices.

Between 1969 and 1976, he noted, imports of clothing and textiles doubled in volume, while their cost to Britain had quadrupled to £1,600m.

Three countries—South Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong—accounted for 80 per cent of the textile and clothing exports of this year, and unless agreement is reached for a new MFA, individual governments are expected to resort to unilateral defensive action to restrict imports.



Dr Brian Smith: some UK sectors face extinction.

Optimism on concrete platform business

Hopes for the future of the two West of Scotland custom-built sites for the construction of concrete platforms for the oil industry were raised yesterday by Dr J. Dickson Mabon, Minister of State for Energy, who said that the Anglo-Dutch group, was to hold on to the 19m platform building site at Hunterston.

He was not taking the advice of some well-wishers who wanted him to write off Hunterston, he said. The Government was keeping the Anglo-Dutch option open.

Referring to the £14m site at Portavadie, Low Fyne, which has been ready since August, 1975 to receive an order but like Hunterston, had lain dormant, Dr Mabon said there were three companies anxious to build a concrete platform there. They remained encouraged that one of these companies would place an order. He thought it would be foolish to shut down either Hunterston or Portavadie.

Dr Mabon said they had come through 21 years but they did not regard themselves as being out of business, on the contrary, the Department of Energy was doing better than the French, the Dutch and the Norwegians. And, he said, would hold on to Hunterston until March 1978, but if they received a definite proposal they would extend their hold a little longer.

Dr Mabon pointed out that there were 28 rigs engaged in exploration and appraisal and 500 exploration wells had been drilled. Their rate of success had been very good compared with a world figure of one in 20. Once they had overcome the Anglo-Irish dispute over the median line Britain would be in a position to start exploration off the west of Scotland.

The question of whether they would use concrete platforms in this area would depend on seabed conditions. He expressed his faith in the concrete platform market.

The minister went on to predict that the British sector of the North Sea would be producing over one million barrels a day by the end of the year.

Leyland output boom embarrasses dealers

By Clifford Webb

Record production in Leyland Cars plants over the past four months has given dealers their best stocks for three years. But the sudden change from severe factory rationing to generous supplies is causing problems for many dealers.

After such a long period of low-key selling they are finding it difficult to adapt to the hard-selling techniques used so successfully by competitors—particularly importers—who have long enjoyed better dealer margins.

It is also apparent that some dealers are under-staffed. Salesmen have either left of their own accord to sell more rewarding makes or have been made redundant.

Mr Trevor Taylor, Leyland Cars sales director, said last night: "Nothing could be further from the truth. Our distributors and dealers are

indicating that they want over 30,000 more cars than we can supply by September.

"But in the case of the Princess we have never really tried to sell it hard because it was in such short supply. We are now changing our mind. There is tremendous demand still for the Mini. It is outselling Ford's Fiesta."

"I think some of our dealers may have become a little worried because cars are now moving into their showrooms at a time when the private sector of the market has gone very quiet. But that always happens in July when motorists are holding back to obtain August registration plates."

At a series of regional conferences next week the entire network will be told that for years they have been complaining about shortages and now they must justify their claims. "Give us the cars, and we will sell them."

Ford has replaced Leyland as United Kingdom market leader for the past four months, but this month they are running neck-and-neck, with some 27.28 per cent penetration,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Arguments for a trade union role in the running of pension schemes

From Mr H. Lucas

Sir, I note with considerable regret that the CBI is still endeavouring to whip up new anti-union hysteria with its objections to the anticipated legislation on membership participation in the management of occupational pension schemes (Mr T. S. McLeod's letter of July 7).

In actual fact, membership participation is now slowly coming into vogue, but often only after repeated pressure from the trade unions. Of the top 100 companies in *The Times* 1,000, I have personal knowledge that membership participation schemes have been recently negotiated in 14 of them. A further six or seven have long-standing participation arrangements.

The vast majority of schemes do not involve members in any way in the management of their own savings. In other words, the vast majority of pension scheme members are currently disfranchised, and would be given new rights by the Government's pension scheme (1978) if it is stated:

"The Trust Deeds and Rules will be drawn up in such a manner as to reduce the Members' administrative involvement to the minimum and CBI Limited have undertaken Trusteeship of the Scheme. Every employer participating

to the request to bring pensions under negotiation, then the union has recourse to the Employment Protection Act.

Personal experience with many leading national employers augurs well; without the need of a statutory spur, consultations on contracting in pension improvements must take second place to job security. Wage negotiators could be deprived of future options unless the long term implications of pension costs are fully recognized on all sides.

Reason enough, I suggest, for membership participation. Hence it would seem the natural logical sequence for the trade union negotiators and jointly develop the pension scheme to negotiate the consultative and trustee structure.

Included in the CBI booklet giving details of its members' pension scheme (1978) is stated:

"The Trust Deeds and Rules will be drawn up in such a manner as to reduce the Members' administrative involvement to the minimum and CBI Limited have undertaken Trusteeship of the Scheme. Every employer participating

is therefore relieved of the need to find Trustees, or to attend any of the tasks falling to the Trustees. Those employers with experience of the duties associated with running a Scheme will testify to the advantage of having independent Trustees.

The CBI's views on pension trusteeship and participation are apparently diametrically opposed to views shared by numerous leading national employers and the trade union with whom participation arrangements have been negotiated over recent months. Mr other employers have agreed the principle with essential criteria being given to the contract in or out decision.

Given that the entire subject receives the detailed and proper consideration that is essential, maybe few will disagree with the view that participation can be achieved in advance of legislation.

The alternative is for insidious "us and them" divide and rule tactics to widen to a detriment of the productivity, profitability, industrial, and human relationships. Yours faithfully, HARRY LUCAS, Head of Pensions & Social Services Department, General and Municipal Workers' Union, Thorne House, Runcley Rd Claygate, Esher, Surrey KT10 1TL.

Maintaining the purchasing power of pensions

From Mr A. Little

Sir, The Minister of State for the Civil Service in replying to the question asked by Mr Robert McCrindle about the difficulties facing private occupational pension schemes in maintaining the purchasing power of pensions in payment—a situation which apparently causes no difficulty in the case of Civil Service pensions—there appeared to be suggesting that there was a compensating factor in private schemes because

a few executives and company chairmen could aspire to a pension of tens of thousands of pounds as little as 10 years service.

The minister, I am sure, is perfectly well aware that many thousands of "short-service" members of private occupational schemes would aspire to that level of pension also but there is no remotest possibility of being able to achieve it. These members may not be so much concerned about that

however, as they are about rapid erosion of the real value of their pension when they may be, once it is in payment, in the hands of inflation.

It was in this context that I imagine Mr McCrindle's question which was deserving of more than a perfunctory answer from the minister gave him. A. LITTLE, 16 Poplar Avenue, Eccleston, St Helens, Merseyside.

Complexity of measuring local authority spending needs

From Mr Eric Wood

Sir, In their recent article "Towards a fairer system of local authority finance," Wynne Godley and Francis Cripps discussed, and generally welcomed, the unitary grant system proposed in the Government's Green Paper on Local Government Finance.

Under that system, local authorities would receive grants calculated by reference to their assessed resources and their assessed spending needs. The grant paid to any individual authority would depend crucially on what the Government assessed its spending need to be. Such assessments would have to be made for over 450 authorities.

This institute is working on the proposals contained in the Government's Green Paper. If a unitary grant system is to be introduced, we hope that sufficient time will be allowed for the large amount of research which will be needed to make the system workable in practice.

Yours faithfully, ERIC WOOD, Director, The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, 1 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HS.

measuring spending needs it is arguable that political judgment about what people want is as important as objective statistical assessment.

Unitary grants would have a considerable effect on rate levies and on standards of service. Very large amounts of money would turn on the assessments of spending needs. If these assessments were not accepted as reasonably accurate, government departments would inevitably be drawn into detailed arguments with authorities about precisely what in fact they need to spend, and hence would be drawn still further into detailed involvement in local authority affairs.

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Yours faithfully, ERIC WOOD, Director, The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, 1 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HS.

Constraints on productivity

From Mr D. G. Layton

Sir, In his article putting "case for holding down merit" (July 13) Mr Michael Smith argues that "if a fall in exchange rate sets off a price spiral of inflation, severity to undo the initial increase in competitiveness, not much would have been gained in the form of greater inflation—loss."

He is right, but the economy now producing so far beyond capacity suggests that any price spiral is likely to be accompanied by very substantial increases in output per man, which would greatly weaken the effect any rise in money wages costs per unit of output, hence on prices.

I wonder whether Mr Smith exaggerates the potential increase in productivity. Our own feeling is that it may be limited by under-investment in new plant and machinery over the last few years, the result that much of existing under-used plant is obsolete.

Yours faithfully, D. G. LAYTON, 33 Cranborne Avenue, Eastbourne, East Sussex, July 14.

Engineering export orders down 7 pc in first 4 months

Britain's engineering industry faces little prospect of moving out of recession, according to latest Government indicators. They show that levels of sales and new orders were flat in the first four months of this year.

Indices published today in *Trade and Industry*, the weekly Government journal, show that while the inflow of orders for the home market continued to increase in the first four months after an improvement last year, the advance was offset by a drop in the level of overseas orders.

These had reached a relatively high level in the preceding year, especially in the

electrical engineering sector, but the trend declined by 7 per cent between January and April.

Sales to both domestic and export markets over the same period showed little change, according to the Department of Industry figures. Export sales continued the flat path they had followed for several months, although there was a 2 per cent rise in export orders in hand during the three months to April.

The combined effect of recent movements in home and export markets produced a very slight increase in the trend of total sales.

Study urges takeover of nuclear fuel production in US to safeguard supplies

New York, July 21.—An Electric-utility industry study has urged the Carter Administration to set up a self-financed government corporation to take over existing and planned production of nuclear fuel for atomic power plants.

Predicting a nuclear fuel shortage in less than 10 years, the study urges utilities to consider financing and building regional nuclear fuel plants to protect themselves in case the government or private industry are unable to expand fuel production at time to avert a severe shortage.

The study was made during the past six months by Duke Power Company, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Edison Electric Institute and Electric-Nuclear Inc. The last is a small company which has pioneered development of the gas centrifuge method of enriching uranium to a quality acceptable as a nuclear power plant fuel.

The Carter Administration's plan to use the gas centrifuge technology to expand production of nuclear fuel at the government-owned plant in Portsmouth, Ohio, is supported. However, the group urges the government to bring in several

private contractors to operate the new gas centrifuge plant. It argues that using multiple contractors would provide a base of experience on which a future private nuclear fuel industry could be built.

It further suggests that the government should set up a nuclear fuel production authority to private industry. An attempt to do so failed to get through Congress during the Ford Administration. President Carter, however, did not make any proposals in his energy plan. The study says the government's monopoly on nuclear fuel production.—AP—Dow Jones.

John Lewis to close last Daniel Neal shops

By Patricia Tisdall

John Lewis Partnership is to close the two remaining branches of the Daniel Neal chain of school outfitters which it acquired in 1963.

The two shops, one at Cheltenham and the other at Bournemouth, are to cease trading on September 30. Although 87 staff, 47 at Bournemouth and the rest at Cheltenham, will be affected by the closures.

John Lewis says that the nature of the shops' trade in school uniforms has been changing "in ways which have made it increasingly difficult to achieve a volume of sales sufficient to cover full operating costs" during the last three years.

Even before 1973 it says that the sales and profitability of the Daniel Neal shops had failed to meet their targets. "The position has deteriorated markedly since then and the outlook does not offer any prospect that the trend can be reversed."

Founded in 1837 the Daniel Neal chain had seven branches when it was acquired by the Partnership for £120,000 in 1963. Immediately after the takeover the branches in Exeter, Bristol and Birmingham were closed because they were too far away from the group's department stores to be economically managed.

Commons committee registers approval at efficiency and value of ECGD's role

Almost total approval is given to the Government's Export Credits Guarantee Department in the latest report from the House of Commons Expenditure Committee.

After hearing evidence from civil servants, bankers and others, the committee accept that spending by the ECGD on interest support has been worth the £641m incurred.

The committee feels it is not necessary to change the role of the ECGD to that of a fully fledged "export bank" providing money itself instead of using commercial banks to do so.

The ECGD is generally recognized as the world's leader in the field of export finance. The efficiency of the service is judged to be very high.

The only two major suggestions for change in the report are that the Government should include provision for the interest support scheme in the trade, industry and employment section of the White Paper on public spending, and that the Government should press on to try to reach international agreement on the control of credit terms.

Healthy order books for chemical plant industry

High levels of activity in the chemical plant contracting industry are revealed today in a survey which shows that

In brief

several companies have projects in hand totalling more than \$1,000m (about £571.5m). According to the survey, published by the weekly industry journal, *Chemical Age*, the most spectacular progress over the past year has been recorded by the French company Technip with an order book of \$2,000m, representing a rise of 170 per cent on the level a year ago.

The Japanese company, Toyo Engineering has done almost as well with a rise of 135 per cent of \$1,700m, helped by the yen's appreciation in recent months.

Ford £1.5m trucks deal

Ford of Britain has reestablished itself in the Tunisian market with a £1.5m export order for trucks ranging in size between seven and 13 tons. The first consignment of 40 trucks was shipped from Britain earlier this month. The company has not exported to Tunisia since 1972.

Building crisis meeting

Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, is to meet leaders of the construction, industry and allied professions

today to discuss the crisis in the building industry. Four main items are on the agenda: housing rehabilitation, increasing private investment in construction, stimulating private industrial building, and the promotion of overseas work.

Aluminium output up

Primary aluminium production last month amounted to a daily average rate of 30,300 metric tons unchanged from the daily average the previous month according to figures published by the International Primary Aluminium Institute. Total production during the month was 910,000 metric tons compared with 800,000 tonnes in June last year. The organization's figures are based on returns from aluminium producers around the world.

£3m shipyard award

British owners have signed letters of intent for the construction of two ships with Cochrane Shipbuilders, owned by United Towing and formerly part of the Drydock shipbuilding group on Northumberland. The two ships are an 800 ton deadweight petroleum tanker for Bowker & King.

The second of the ships is a 2,700 tonne deadweight bulk carrier for the Klondyke Shipping Co. The two orders are worth nearly £3m.

Asian exporters pose long-term threat to Japan

Paris, July 21.—Japan is likely to encounter increasing difficulties in exporting in coming years. Competition from countries such as South Korea and Singapore is steadily increasing, according to Hudson Institute, an affiliate of the Hudson Institute of the United States.

"One of Japan's long-term problems is that it lacks a natural trading region of high-income nations where its products can be sold without provoking protectionist reactions," the organization says.

This problem is likely to become more acute, since the Japanese economy requires the reinforcement and expansion of its export sector to meet the demands of their highly advanced nations.

"Already competition from countries such as South Korea and Singapore in certain of Japan's important current product sectors underlines the necessity for technological advance," the report goes on.

It maintains that the problem of the regional distribution of Japanese exports is "permanent" pointing out that the present level of growth is concentrated mostly in sectors which the Japanese must eventually concede to lower wage-cost competitors.

The Hudson report affirms that the present structure of the Japanese industry "makes it persistently vulnerable" in the longer-term.—AP—Dow Jones.

Deadlock in EEC-Japanese food talks

Tokyo, July 21.—Talks between the Japanese Government and the European Commission on processed food imports to Japan ended without any progress, officials said here today.

M. Pierre Malve, chief EEC delegate at the talks which began on Monday, told a press conference that he was not wholly satisfied with the Japanese response to demands for reduced tariffs and increased quotas on certain food, dairy products and whisky.

The Japanese delegation agreed to cooperate in efforts to promote processed food exports to Japan, but rejected the demands for increasing imports of about nine food items.

Japanese government sources, meanwhile, said the EEC delegation had shown an under-

standing of the problems Japan faces in stepping up imports of agricultural goods.

The Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture does not see any reason to lower the tariff on wheat while Japanese farmers are pushing contrary demands, the sources said. The government is negotiating on any increase in the controlled price of home-grown rice.

Japan will set up a joint research committee to study ways of promoting imports of European foods. The Government will also cooperate in a food products fair for the Community.

The Japanese delegation, headed by Mr Michio Mizoguchi, the foreign ministry's deputy director-general for economic affairs, said the proposed tariff cuts should be considered within

the framework of the next round of multinational trade negotiations scheduled for January.

Government sources added that lowering import tariffs on the items—particularly dairy products—probably would not help the EEC member states because of keener competition for the Japanese market from the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

Japanese officials do not view the bilateral talks with the Community on such matters as increased food product imports as particularly productive, any more. No further talks are scheduled.

"These talks are kind of a formality, where the EEC likes to dramatize and confront the issue," one source close to the Government commented. "There won't be much progress."—AP—Dow Jones.

Italian state steel group braced for £330m loss

From John Earle

Rome, July 21.—Signor Ambrogio Puri, chairman of the state-owned steel corporation Italsider, which accounts for over 50 per cent of the country's steel output, in an interview published today that losses this year may be near 500,000 lire (£330m).

Last year Italsider reported a loss of 130,000 lire (£86m). Describing the situation as grave, he told an interviewer from *Corriere della Sera* that it was not yet possible to make reliable forecasts about the 1977 result, but from the way things were going he feared that the year would devour the greater part of the reserves at the end of 1976 these stood at around 500,000 lire.

While hoping that it was too pessimistic to conclude that Italsider was losing one million pounds a day, Signor Puri pointed to three negative factors: the fall in demand and prices on markets throughout the world; the company's serious indebtedness; and its lack of efficiency.

The Italian situation was among the worst in the world. With a productive capacity of 30 million tons, demand last year sank to 21 million tons, and this year it was lower still. Signor Puri said that, out of the company's total indebtedness of over 3,500,000 lire (£2,333m) about 1,450,000 lire were short term and subject to the high interest rates prevailing.

From Dr J. W. M. Chapman

Sir, To add to the excellent points mentioned by Sir James Dunnett (July 15) on the balance of advantage arising from the new Anglo-American Air Services Agreement, it is worth noting that the Japanese Transport Ministry, which is currently engaged in similar renegotiation of air traffic rights, has welcomed the Anglo-American settlement by saying that it wants to obtain at least the same rights as Britain.

Spokesmen for the Transport Ministry and Japan Airlines have recognized that the British negotiators had extracted considerable concessions from the United States and gone a long way to correct the previous inequalities. Although the Japanese negotiators are evidently trying to achieve an even more favourable balance of advantage, it is nonetheless clear that the Japanese, who are no slouches when it comes to bargaining in their national and self-interest, have been favourably impressed by the outcome of the tough and tenacious British negotiating position.

There has been an attempt at close Anglo-Japanese consulta-

tion and solidarity on issues over the past year which has not gone unnoticed in Washington and it is worth noting that the Japanese side in the balance sheet in Japanese relations after period in which your country has been loaded with a hostile and recriminating reputation.

Yours faithfully, JOHN W. M. CHAPMAN, Lecturer in International Relations, University of Sussex, School of African and Asian Studies, Brighton BN1 9QN.

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هذه امه الص

Yields boost gilts but equities still falling

was 563.15m (13,751 bargains). According to Exchange Telegraph active stocks yesterday were ICI, BAT Dfd, Racal, Fairey, Shell, Ultramar, Court-audels, Barclays Bank, Gus 'A', GKN, Rank, Marks & Spencer, Trust Houses Forte, Cawoods, Wheatstheaf, British Sugar and Siebens Oil.

0 (Nil)	—	—	(1.25)
5 (1.13)	3/10	—	(3.1)
10 (0.65)	1/9	—	(2.16)
15 (0.52)	—	—	10 (0.7)
20 (0.45)	2/9	20.5 (23)	—
25 (0.4)	15/8	—	(9**)
30 (0.37)	30/9	—	(3.04)
35 (0.8)	8/9	1.6 (1.51)	—
40 (0.15)	—	0.18 (5.2)	—
45 (0.7)	—	1 (2.1)	—
50 (0.77)	6/9	2.0 (1.8)	—
55 (1.78)	1/10	3.06 (2.7)	—
60 (0.4)	3/8	0.8 (0.7)	—
65 (1.51)	31/8	—	(11.8)
70 (1.82)	12/10	4.18 (3.604)	—
75 (1.16)	23/8	10 (10)	—
80 (3.72)	23/12	2.0 (1.8)	—
—	23/12	7.3 (6.6)	—
—	—	—	(1.2)

6(1.57)	3/10	3.0(2.5)
(—)	—	—(—)
(1.4)	—	1.6(1.4)
7(0.73)	3/10	2.14†(1.9)

elsewhere in Business News dividends
 dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown
 AS. ** Cents.

Company Insr. or Flu	Sales fm	Profits fm	Earnings per share	Div pence	Pay- date	Year's total
Allnatt Ltd	—(—)	2.7(2.2)	7.4(6.1)	2.9(2.6)	9/9	3.8(3.4)
Ass Fish (A)	49.1(38.8)	1.0(0.83*)	2.93(2.12*)	1.30(0.90)	3/10	1.5(1.25)
Bearsteads Prop (I)	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)	1.15(1.13)	3/9	—(3.1)
Beristors (I)	3.6(2.8)	0.43(0.37)	5.2(4.4)	0.7(0.64)	1/9	—(2.16)
Burt Bolton (F)	35.1(32.5)	1.01(0.9*)	32.7(36.7*)	6.5(5.2)	—	10(7.7)
Cam Mkt Trst (F)	—(—)	0.33(0.39)	—(—)	2.7(2.5)	2/9	—(9.0)
Ldu Ass Lev (I)	—(—)	0.23(0.16)	—(—)	5** (4**)	15/8	—(9**)
Robt H. Lowe (I)	2.2(1.5)	0.23(0.27)	—(—)	0.8(0.87)	30/9	—(3.04)
Marston, Thomp	21.7(17.3)	3.4(2.7)	—(—)	0.9(0.8)	8/9	1.6(1.51)
Morgan Ed (F)	25.2(25.3)	0.08(0.02)	—(—)	0.5(0.5)	—	0.16(0.23)
Romney Trst (I)	0.97(0.44)	—(—)	—(—)	0.8(0.7)	—	—(2.3)
Alex Russell	8.9(8.3)	0.40(0.35)	13.9(12.6)	2.0(1.77)	6/9	2.0(1.8)
Smith Walkis (F)	17.1(7.5)	0.10(0.03)	5.5(16.0)	0.79(5.78)	—	3.06(2.7)
F Tompkins (F)	13.6(12.8)	1.4(0.98)	2.7(2.1)	0.5(0.5)	1/10	0.8(0.6)
Derry (A)	—(—)	—(—)	—(—)	6.3(5.1)	31/8	—(11.8)
Dowry Group (F)	126.3(121.8)	18.0(13.1)	15.6(10.7)	2.2(1.82)	12/10	4.18(3.504*)
W. Duncan (F)	—(—)	0.52(0.13)	—(—)	4.15(1.16)	22/8	10(10)
Ecna (F)	6.0(1.6)	0.69(0.08)	18.4(12.98)	1.4(0.84)	22/8	2.0(1.8)
Edna (F)	1.08(5.910.3)	1.15(0.83)	21.8(19.3)	1.0(1.70)	22/12	7(3.6)
Greenfriar (I)	0.10(0.10)	—(—)	0.72(0.86)	—(—)	—	—(1.2)
Hambro Trst (F)	—(—)	—(—)	6.94(4.94)	1.12(1.0)	28/9	1.62(1.50)
Hastemere (F)	—(—)	1.1(0.98)	2.7(2.9)	2.9(2.6)	2/10	2.9(2.6)
Ualgate	862.9(762.6)	22.8(21.6)	6.86(6.01)	1.86(1.67)	3/10	3.0(2.7)
West Coast (I)	0.08(0.07)	0.01(0.001)	—(—)	1.6(1.4)	—	1.6(1.4)
Wyndham Eng (F)	0.22(0.13)	0.09(0.01)	4.2(1.9)	1.6(1.4)	3/10	2.14(1.19)
York Trailer (I)	17.1(8.9)	1.1(0.38)	—(—)	1.07(0.73)	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News share prices are shown net of tax on pence per share and net of tax on pence per share. Profits are shown net of tax on pence per share. Loss, F, Forecast, A, Adjusted for scrip, AS, ** Cents.



Sir James Barker, chairman
Unigate

the pig interests have sufficed as a result of Common Market agricultural policy. The export and engineering divisions showed much improved results.

Interest charges rose £5.5m to £6.1m last year, the group has arranged for medium term borrowing from its bankers to help a capital spending program which required around £10m last year. Even so, the balances at year-end are at £17m.

Earnings per share go up to 6.01p to 6.86p, and a final dividend payment of 2.87p takes the total for the year to the maximum of 4.73p.

Fire loss by Berisfords set for £1m

By Ashley Druker
Despite the loss by its February of a mill producing specialty yarns, British makers of ribbons, trims and labels, did sufficiently to turn in an 18 per cent increase in pre-tax profits of £437,000 in the opening half of May 21 last. With trading

“very good” and all prod in demand, even a similar of increase in the final s to November 24 would give group a first-time flm.

In the latest half turn was nearly 26 per cent, bl at £3.66m (and against £8 for the preceding full y

Retained profit rose £157,000 to £187,000

ings a share from 4.4p to 1. It pays a gross interim dividend lifted from 0.98p to 1 the maximum permissible.

Mr John Sebire, chair referring to the fire at Macclesfield mill says this where speciality yarns produced on machines work 24 hours a day. The mill

total loss, and has caused serious problems, with the production difficult to repeat. There has been help from others in the industry. There have of course been inevitable delays. The good is that the group is returning to a more even flow of processed yarns.

lost capacity to be replaced this end a new factory is ned at Congleton.

Meanwhile exports are "buoyant" - some £125m the target in the current. Elsewhere, its new range ribbons and trimmings 1977-78 have been received. Overall, a

Merchant Investors' off-palliative to investors' cur jaundiced view of the prop sector in the July edition their Broker Bulletin property fund managers, and Ellis, repeat the ep astic forecasts of incr institutional investment in

erty; increased development activity and City of London growth, that they are "in the process of investment in Ellis believes that the private market is "showing a downturn" and MIPs profound, spread 35 per cent shop properties, 25 per cent offices and 18 per cent industrial; is now sufficient on the market to plus increase in its holding of development properties. Again support for Ellis's belief. The next comes in the June 1991 report of the *Investment and Property Managers' Association's* City Floorcase Sur-

Briefly

Sachs International Corp., five other banking concerns is Japan's largest maker of soaps, detergents, shampoos, sundry auxiliary products.

per cent coupon: as those Bonds to be listed: Luxembourg

UNITED KINGDOM PROV

In half year to June 30 new
minim income £4.49m, a rise
per cent. Sums assured
£125m, a jump of 69 per cent.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE

New premium income for
month: to June 30; annual
minims £9.3m (£10.4m) single
minims £11.6m (£6.2m).

Reports of the directors for the quarter ended 30th June 1977

ISSUED CAPITAL : 50 322 825 shares of 20 cents each.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The net amount expended on mining assets is as follows :

	Quarter ended June 1977	Quarter ended Mar. 1977	6 months ended June 1977
Net expenditure on mining assets for the year ending December 31 1977 is estimated at R45 000 000 (previously R41 500 000).	R2 268 000	R10 569 000	R19 235 000
Orders placed and outstanding on capital expenditure contracts as at June 30 1977 totalled R55 061 000.			

Note : All after tax pre-production revenue, including interest on surplus funds, is credited to mining assets.

SHAFT SINKING

	Quarter ended June 1977	Quarter ended Mar. 1977	6 months ended June 1977
Man/Waterloo Shaft			
Advance—metres	57	147	204
Depth to date—metres	1 813	1 786	1 813
Station cutting—metres	919	966	1 885
Breacas reticulating—metres	162	—	162
Rock/Ventholow Shaft			
Advance—metres	271	365	636
Depth to date—metres	1 928	1 637	1 526
Station cutting—metres	540	190	730

DEVELOPMENT

During the quarter ended June 1977 a total of 644 metres (quarter ended March

June 1977				18.0	43.28	779	0.76	25
Quarter ended March 1977	7 783	102	110	35.5	51.58	1 831	0.73	19
Quarter ended June 1977	7 983	110	110	35.5	51.58	1 831	0.73	19
Six months ended June 1977	16 720	214	27.2	48.90	1 330	0.73	19	
Sheff area:								
No. 3	2 048	38	89.5	24.12	2 161	—	—	—
No. 2	561	138	12.5	8.98	1 01	—	—	—
Quarter ended June 1977	2 998	178	29.2	18.70	546	—	—	—
Quarter ended March 1977	2 632	100	57.1	22.17	1 146	—	—	—
Six months ended June 1977	5 631	276	37.3	20.46	765	—	—	—

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE
Estimated expenditure for the year ending December 31, 1977 is \$120 000 000.
Expenditure paid and outstanding on capital expenditure contracts as at June 30 1977 totalled R 555 000.

UNDERGROUND FIRE-NO. 3 SHAFT
The fire which broke out in the 107 level East longwall on June 10 1977 has been extinguished and production from this area is being re-established. Production from this area was adversely affected, and taking into account a production shortfall in other areas due to back-shear shortages, the estimate of losses for the year ending December 31 1977 has accordingly been revised as stated above.

D. B. MORFEE, Director

July 22 1977

The South African Land & Exploration Company Limited

ISSUED CAPITAL: 8 600 000 shares of 35 cents each

	Quarter ended June 1977	Quarter ended Mar. 1977	6 months ended June 1977
FINANCIAL RESULTS			
Gold revenue	R1 870 000	R1 818 000	R3 498 000
Revenue of leased mineral and farm	263 000	263 000	436 000
Sale of capital items	95 000	1 043 000	1 138 000
Surplus revenue	122 000	106 000	234 000
Net assistance—continued	—	60 000	60 000
	2 186 000	3 180 000	5 366 000
Deduct:			
Operating and salvage costs	1 616 000	2 506 000	4 120 000
Surplus before taxation	571 000	675 000	1 246 000
Taxation—estimated	159 000	217 000	376 000
Surplus after taxation	R432 000	R458 000	R870 000

ISSUED CAPITAL: 6 600 000 shares of 35 cents each			
	Quarter ended June 30 1977	Quarter ended Mar. 31 1978	6 months ended June 30 1978
FINANCIAL RESULTS			
Gross revenue	R1 670 000	R1 618 000	R3 498 000
Cost of sales	293 000	1 133 000	436 000
Sale of salvaged equipment and scrap		1 345 000	1 350 000
Cost of other items		1 096 000	2 531 000
Revenue	128 000	60 000	60 000
Spent assistance—estimated			
	2 186 000	3 180 000	5 366 000
Deduct:			
Operating and salaried costs	1 616 000	2 505 000	4 120 000
Surplus before taxation	571 000	675 000	1 246 000
Taxation—estimated	159 000	217 000	376 000
Surplus after taxation	R412 000	R458 000	R870 000

complemented by material from the Sub-Nigel No. 6 shaft waste rock dumps
colleaving. The total mill throughput of 2,250 cwt. tons during the past year
was derived from these dumps and the mill throughput of 215,000
tons for the March quarter included a certain residual tonnage from underground
work and on behalf of the be
N. F. LAWRENCE, Director

July 22 1977

The attention of shareholders is directed to the report of Vaal Reef Exploration and Mining Company Limited

NOTES

1. Eleven—Shift Fournight
It appears that the introduction of the eleven-shift fournight on April 1, 1977 may have caused productivity at some plants to be affected adversely. However, it is too early at this stage to evaluate accurately its full implications.
2. Development values represent actual results of sampling, no allowance having been made for adjustments necessary in estimating ore reserves.

Copies of the reports will be available on request from the offices of the transfer secretaries:
Charter Consolidated Limited, P.O. Box 102, Charter House, Park Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8EQ.

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Briefly

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UNITED KINGDOM PROV

In half year to June 30 new
minim income £4.49m, a rise
per cent. Sums assured
£125m, a jump of 69 per cent.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE

New premium income for
month: to June 30; annual
minims £9.3m (£10.4m) single
minims £11.6m (£6.2m).

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Associated Fisheries justifies optimism in £2.3m turnround

Associated Fisheries justifies optimism expressed in annual report by the fact that it has made a £2.3m turnround in the last 12 months, the company's chairman, Sir James B. Macdonald, said yesterday.

The company's 1976-77 financial year ended on March 31, 1977, and was a record for the company, which has been in the fish business since 1925.

Macdonald said that the company's turnover of £2.3m was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

He also said that the company's profit of £2.3m was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

Dowty 37pc ahead and set for further growth

Dowty Group, the aircraft equipment and hydraulic engineering group, has reported a 37 per cent increase in turnover and a 37 per cent increase in profit for the first half of 1977.

The company's chairman, Sir James B. Macdonald, said yesterday that the company's performance was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

He also said that the company's profit of £2.3m was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

York Trailer changes into top gear

York Trailer, the commercial vehicle industry, has reported a 37 per cent increase in turnover and a 37 per cent increase in profit for the first half of 1977.

The company's chairman, Sir James B. Macdonald, said yesterday that the company's performance was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

He also said that the company's profit of £2.3m was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

Record second quarter and first-half from Xerox

Xerox Corporation of America, which manufactures copiers, duplicators, and other office equipment, has reported a record second quarter and first-half performance for 1977.

The company's chairman, Sir James B. Macdonald, said yesterday that the company's performance was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

He also said that the company's profit of £2.3m was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

Norton Simon-Avis

Norton Simon-Avis, the car rental company, has reported a 37 per cent increase in turnover and a 37 per cent increase in profit for the first half of 1977.

The company's chairman, Sir James B. Macdonald, said yesterday that the company's performance was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

He also said that the company's profit of £2.3m was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

Stake in Bethlehem

Bethlehem Steel Corporation, the steel manufacturer, has reported a 37 per cent increase in turnover and a 37 per cent increase in profit for the first half of 1977.

The company's chairman, Sir James B. Macdonald, said yesterday that the company's performance was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

He also said that the company's profit of £2.3m was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

Anglo Am extends mining waste scheme on new uranium contract

Anglo American Corporation has extended its mining waste scheme on a new uranium contract.

The company's chairman, Sir James B. Macdonald, said yesterday that the company's performance was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

He also said that the company's profit of £2.3m was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

Heron gets go-ahead in Cardiff

Heron, the property development company, has received go-ahead for its new scheme in Cardiff.

The company's chairman, Sir James B. Macdonald, said yesterday that the company's performance was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

He also said that the company's profit of £2.3m was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

Foreign Exchange

The foreign exchange market has seen a 37 per cent increase in turnover and a 37 per cent increase in profit for the first half of 1977.

The company's chairman, Sir James B. Macdonald, said yesterday that the company's performance was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

He also said that the company's profit of £2.3m was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

Spot Position of Sterling

The spot position of the sterling has seen a 37 per cent increase in turnover and a 37 per cent increase in profit for the first half of 1977.

The company's chairman, Sir James B. Macdonald, said yesterday that the company's performance was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

He also said that the company's profit of £2.3m was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

Forward Levels

The forward levels of the sterling have seen a 37 per cent increase in turnover and a 37 per cent increase in profit for the first half of 1977.

The company's chairman, Sir James B. Macdonald, said yesterday that the company's performance was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

He also said that the company's profit of £2.3m was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

Gold

The gold market has seen a 37 per cent increase in turnover and a 37 per cent increase in profit for the first half of 1977.

The company's chairman, Sir James B. Macdonald, said yesterday that the company's performance was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

He also said that the company's profit of £2.3m was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

Metal Box fears tinplate rise will hit canned food

Metal Box, the tinplate manufacturer, fears that a rise in tinplate prices will hit the canned food industry.

The company's chairman, Sir James B. Macdonald, said yesterday that the company's performance was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

He also said that the company's profit of £2.3m was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

Commodities

The commodities market has seen a 37 per cent increase in turnover and a 37 per cent increase in profit for the first half of 1977.

The company's chairman, Sir James B. Macdonald, said yesterday that the company's performance was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

He also said that the company's profit of £2.3m was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

The Eurobond market has seen a 37 per cent increase in turnover and a 37 per cent increase in profit for the first half of 1977.

The company's chairman, Sir James B. Macdonald, said yesterday that the company's performance was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

He also said that the company's profit of £2.3m was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

Recent Issues

The recent issues market has seen a 37 per cent increase in turnover and a 37 per cent increase in profit for the first half of 1977.

The company's chairman, Sir James B. Macdonald, said yesterday that the company's performance was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

He also said that the company's profit of £2.3m was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

Bank Base Rates

The bank base rates have seen a 37 per cent increase in turnover and a 37 per cent increase in profit for the first half of 1977.

The company's chairman, Sir James B. Macdonald, said yesterday that the company's performance was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

He also said that the company's profit of £2.3m was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

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The company's chairman, Sir James B. Macdonald, said yesterday that the company's performance was a result of a number of factors, including a 25 per cent increase in the price of fish, a 10 per cent increase in the volume of sales, and a 10 per cent increase in the number of customers.

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The person I require will possess the drive and enthusiasm needed to translate the latent skills of the Company into a business unit of improved profitability.

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Please contact Miss Jane Buckle, Cyril Sweett & Partners. Tel. 01-242 9777.

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ASSISTANT PARTNERSHIP SECRETARY (Personnel)

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Debenham, Twiss and Chinnocks, who are a leading international firm of Chartered Surveyors based in London, are seeking to appoint an Assistant Secretary whose prime responsibilities will be directed towards personnel matters.

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INSTITUTE OF TOURISM
DIRECTOR

In June 1977, following two years of detailed discussions, the decision was taken to form a new Institute of Tourism for people employed at pre-seasonal level in the tourism industry in the U.K. At a time director, responsible to the Council and its Executive Committee. The Institute will be based in London. The Institute will be challenging, and its members will be expected to have a record of achievement in professional people. Further particulars of the post may be obtained from the Institute of Tourism Management, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 7XH. The closing date for receipt of applications will be 10th August 1977.

